

The CHAIRMAN said that he hoped the members in future meetings would continue to talk about their cases. The discussion had been most useful and had brought out the kind of personal contributions they all wanted.

—*The British Homœopathic Journal, July, 1947*

CRISIS IN HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE

Sir,

Through your esteemed monthly paper I wish to draw the kind attention of the West Bengal Government to the following facts:—

- (1) Due to recent order of the Central Government concerning the 95% cut in the existing quota of imported medicines, the Homœopathic pharmacists have to face a unique situation resulting in the strangulation of the whole trade in Homœopathic medicines.
- (2) The Homœopathic medicines are mostly imported as "back dilutions" and out of them the generally prescribed potencies of 6, 30, 200 etc are locally prepared and served to the physicians and the suffering public.
- (3) Roughly 4 to 5 lacs Rupees worth of medicines are imported by the Calcutta pharmacists. They cater to 30 to 40 millions of people.
- (4) The peculiarity and speciality of Homœopathic medicine lies in the fact that out of a small quantity of mother-tincture or "back" potencies of medicines huge quantities of actually prescribed potencies are produced. This is not the case with anyother system of medicine. In-short, minimum quantity of medicines cater to the maximum number of patients.

- (5) Due to this severe and abrupt cut in the quota by the Central Govt. the whole business of Homœopathic medicine dealers is hard hit, the patients are deprived of their life-giving drugs and there will be unemployment of the worker in the pharmacies and the difficulty in the practice of the Homœopathic physician.
- (6) The Govt. may have issued this order with a view to manufacture drugs locally and to be self-sufficient in matters so vital concerning the health of the people. But the purpose of the Govt. will be defeated as the pharmacies are not given sufficient time and facilities to accommodate themselves to the altered situation in the country. Practically no pharmacy (however big its business may be) manufacture potencies from crude drugs which are k.a. polychrests in Homœo. Materia Medica. Further most of the drugs commonly prescribed by the Homœopathic physician are of foreign origin—as they were proved on healthy human being in foreign countries. To get reliable drugs on whose action the doctors can count, the Indian varieties of those drugs have got to be proved first e.g. a new Materia Medica has got to be compiled before Indian drugs can be introduced in the country. That requires a sufficiently long time, properly trained scientists and properly equipped laboratories.
- Further to produce potentised drugs out of mother-tinctures huge amount of alcohol is required e.g. To produce 1 oz of Nux Vom. 200 we need 200 oz of alcohol. We have nearly 4 to 5 thousand potencies to prepare. Already we are passing through alcohol crisis.
- Similarly to produce triturations like 1x, 2x huge amount of Sugar of milk is required. And be it

noted that there is scarcity in the supply of Sugar of milk as well.

- (7) Our Govt. cannot be blamed to induce pharmacists to be self-sufficient in the manufacture of drugs. But they must be given sufficient time and sufficient facilities by the Government. We may suggest the graded cut in the quota of imported drugs covering at least ten years. Instead of 95% cut we should start with 5% cut.
- (8) From the financial point of view the Government have to lose all and gain nothing by this drastic cut. As for example, from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz of medicine of back dilution, worth -/8/-, about 40 lacs of drachms of usually prescribed potencies are produced. The Central Government will receive back a considerable sum of money in the form of Income-Tax as the provincial Government in the form of Sales-Tax out of the sale proceeds of the Homœopathic medicines.
- (9) We want to impress upon the Central Government and the Provincial Governments with all the emphasis that our language can command that they are doing a distinct disservice to the suffering humanity and following a short-sighted policy in introducing this drastic cut.
- (10) The Homœopathic system of medicine has not yet received the attention of the Government which it deserves. As a modern Civilised Government should observe religious neutrality i.e. it should allow full scope to the followers of particular creeds or religions and interfere only when one sect infringes on the fundamental civic rights and liberties of another sect—it is high time that the Government should adopt a similar attitude to different schools of healing art. Let the Government provide ways and means for the fullest development of each school of medicine;

and comparative statistics of practical results would assess how much truth is contained in each system. Let the Government pass laws that the physicians of different schools must have proper training in the fundamental subjects of medicine before they start their professional career. It is then and then only that the relative merits of different systems of medicine can be ascertained. To the people at large we appeal that it is as much their concern to have efficient physicians of different schools as no particular system hold a monopoly of truth and knowledge.

We hereby sound a clarion call to all the Homœopathic physicians, Homœopathic pharmacists and the suffering public (wanting to be treated Homœopathically) not to take this Government order lying down but to register their protest publicly through the platform and the press to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to obviate the crisis that has threatened the very existence of Homœopathy and the Homœopaths.

DR. B. K. SIRCAR, M.B.

EXPLAINING HOW THE HOMŒOPATHS SCIENTIFICALLY "PROVE" THEIR REMEDIES

by E. PETRIE HOYLE, M.D.

(Continued from December, 1947.)

Your Lippincott goes on to tell his readers of the grave "toxic effects" of this God-sent remedy. No wonder he "warns" the profession when speaking of the dosages he names. These ultimate "Toxic" effects named by him are actual gross poisonings, but they actually point out to