

HOMŒOPATHIC SYSTEM OF THERAPEUTICS

Resolution Passed by Indian Parliament.

NEW DELHI Feb. 17. The Dominion Parliament, which considered non-official resolutions to day, adopted Mr. M. L. Saksena's substitute resolution in place of Mr. S. C. Samanta's original resolution on Homœopathy.

Mr. Saksena's resolution says that in view of the fact that treatment by the system of Homœopathy is taken advantage of by so many people, this Assembly is of the opinion that the Government should consider the making of arrangements for the teaching of Homœopathy; consider the advisability of having post-graduate courses of study and of regulating the profession; and arrange for the registration of practitioners in order to raise and maintain a uniformity of Standards.

Mr. Samanta's original resolution had urged that the Homœopathic system of therapeutics should be recognized by the Indian Union and that a General Council and a State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine should be established at once.

Mr. Samanta said that Western countries had adopted Homœopathy as a medical science and India realized the importance of the system not only because of its therapeutic success but from the economic point of view. It gave solace to the millions of India's poor and her working class people.

Mr. Saksena, moving his substitute resolution, said that during the rule of British imperialism the science of Homœopathy had been neglected in India. If recognized by the State Homœopathy could make a substantial contribution in solving the medical problems of India, he declared.

Mr. Nazir-ud-din Ahmed, supported the original resolution moved by Mr Samanta and said that the question of recognizing the Homœopathic system of medicine should not be postponed any longer.

Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta said that the people should not be deprived of this inexpensive treatment owing to the prejudices of allopathic practitioners.

Mr. Biswanath Dass opposed the resolution because, he said, by accepting it the Government would be neglecting the Indian systems of medicine like the Ayurvedic and Unani systems.

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaya said that recognition of Homœopathy by the Government would not amount to very much because the Government had no means of stopping people from patronizing any particular system of medicine, recognized or unrecognized.

Mr. Sibbanlal Saksena also stressed the cheapness of the homœopathic system of treatment and said that by supporting the resolution members would be doing a real service to the masses.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, explaining why she did not accept the resolution as tabled by Mr. Samanta, said that at present there was no prohibition in any part of the Indian union of the practice of Homœopathy and, therefore, the question of recognition really of any particular system of treatment did not arise.

If by recognition was meant that the Government should establish institutions which provided homœopathic treatment all over the Indian Union, she would draw attention to the fact that medical administration, medical education and medical treatment were all Provincial subjects and this matter was one primarily for Provincial Governments. If, on the other hand, by recognition it was desired that there should be legislation for the purpose of regulating the practice of this system and for registration of practitioners, then that matter would certainly have to be studied very carefully.

She had made inquiries and had been informed that in the U. K. and U. S. A. people practising Homœopathy were those who had undergone a regular course of scientific

medicine. If homœopathic practice was to be regulated in India by legislation, then this country should have to adopt some such procedure.

In view of the keenness of the House, she would accept Mr. Saksena's resolution. In doing so, however, she wanted the House to realize the necessity for raising the standard of education and training all those who were rendering medical aid to the people. Anything short of that meant exploitation of the ignorance of the masses.

The Health Minister said she would set up a committee to consider the whole question and ensure that there was no unnecessary delay in implementing the House's decisions.

—Statesman

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