

A REVIEW OF SEVEN YEARS' WORK OF THE STATE FACULTY OF HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINE, WEST BENGAL

The Government of Bengal established the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic medicine on the 1st April 1943. The Council was composed of 33 nominated members. A set of statutes has since been drawn up in consultation with a representative Committee of the Homœopathic practitioners of Calcutta for the constitution and guidance of the said faculty. A donation of Rs. 6,850 was made to the Government by some eminent Homœopathic physicians of Calcutta for the purpose. The Government placed the above sum at the disposal of the faculty. This donation together with the receipts from the registration of Homœopathic practitioners were expected to be sufficient to meet the capital and the recurring cost of establishing and maintaining the Council. It is to be noted that the Government were pleased to promulgate the statutes of the Homœopathic State Faculty on the clear understanding that no financial assistance will be expected from Government for the maintenance of the Council and Faculty. Some time elapsed before the necessary statutes were framed, approved and published in the Calcutta Gazette. The Faculty began to function from the month of January 1944. Since then about 7000 homœopathic practitioners have been registered under the Faculty. This Council and Faculty was reconstituted after the partition of Bengal. As a result thereof nearly two thousand practitioners had to be left out from the Register of West Bengal. In the first year the Council registered about 2500 practitioners. By this time the Council observed that many undesirables and quacks took advantage of the laxity of the Faculty requirements and got themselves registered. To stop further registration of undesirable candidates the Faculty amended some of its rulings in 1944 and arranged for 'viva voci' examinations which the intending prac-

titioners were required to pass to qualify themselves for registration. Under new regulations about 2300 homœopathic practitioners passed the test and secured registration. For sometime this system of examination was abandoned as some of the Faculty members pointed out great difficulties on the part of the candidates to come over to Calcutta due to transport difficulties during the war period. But as the Council could not prevent registration of undesirable candidates the old system of holding 'viva voci' examinations had to be enforced more strictly. The Council started to register homœopathic practitioners from the month of December 1948 and weekly examinations were held for the purpose. Up to this time 577 homœopathic practitioners appeared at the examinations and 323 practitioners secured registration. About 1300 practitioners are still in the waiting list.

During this short period the Faculty affiliated five homœopathic institutions in the province. The Faculty had to disaffiliate one institution in 1948 as the authorities of that particular institution did not abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the Faculty and many serious charge of irregularities on the part of the said authorities were proved to be true. Last year the Faculty granted affiliation to the Midnapore Homœopathic Medical College. Up to this time 908 students have been registered and a total of 22 examinations have been held so far. 588 students from different affiliated institutions appeared for the Intermediate and Final D.M.S. Examinations and 410 students got through the Intermediate and Final D.M.S. Examinations. Lastly the Faculty granted a sum of Rs. 20,000|- for building a "Dissection Hall" for the students of the different affiliated institutions.

The Faculty arranged for holding Transitory Clause Examinations just to enable the registered homœopathic practitioners to qualify themselves for "D.M.S." diploma. So far four such examinations have been held. 287 practitioners appeared for those examinations out of whom 210

doctors got through and secured the "D.M.S." diploma of the Faculty.

The Faculty had to carry out some thankless tasks to keep up the standard of the Homœopathic teaching and practice. Some ethical rules concerning the homœopathic practice were forwarded by the Faculty to the Government which it approved. The attention of the Council was drawn to the fact that some registered homœopathic practitioners were using bogus diplomas in contravention of the ethical rules promulgated by the Government. Three registered homœopathic practitioners were found guilty of this charge. They were requested by the Faculty to abide by the rules of the Faculty. As they did not take heed of the Faculty's request, formal charge-sheets were framed against them, and proper procedure was followed by the Faculty to give them a chance to explain their conduct. After much anxious deliberations the Faculty felt the painful necessity of taking action and consequently disregistered those three homœopathic practitioners for violating the ethical rules to be observed by all the homœopathic practitioners registered with the said Faculty.

The Faculty is all along striving hard to keep up the standard of homœopathic teaching and practice. The Faculty has lately submitted a "Homœopathic Medical Board" Bill for the consideration of the provincial Government and which is said to be receiving their attention. The legislative enactment of the proposed "Bill" would go a great way to enhance the status of Homœopathic teaching and practice in West Bengal.

The publication of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee Report by the Ministry of Health, Government of India, is a notable event. It is gratifying that the said Enquiry Committee accepted almost all the suggestions put forward by this Faculty and recognised all the homœopathic institutions affiliated with this Faculty. This Faculty has also supported (subject to some

amendments) the recommendations of the said Enquiry Committee.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE FACULTY

The Faculty started its onerous task with a few thousand rupees donated by a few eminent homœopathic physicians of Calcutta. The Council feels satisfied to have improved its financial position within the last seven years. The balance sheet of income and expenditure will show that Faculty is, now in a position, to undertake bigger responsibilities to further the interests of Homœopathic teaching and practice in West Bengal. The Faculty started with a paltry sum of Rs. 6,850/-. The present reserve fund of the Faculty amounts to Rs. 1,36,851/-.

A. SEN,
Off. Registrar.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

Many inquisitive friends of mine, have good-naturedly asked from different provinces for my opinion about the report of H.E.C. I regret not being able to comply with their requests separately for want of time and energy. Also I wanted to avoid an ill-feeling amongst ourselves in case, their opinion differed from mine. It seems safer to open my heart to closer friends generally who love me sincerely and appreciated my opinion on the method to improve Homœopathy as a true Healing Art.

We ought to thank the Health Minister of the Government of India who appointed the Committee with surely an earnest desire to recognise Homœopathy if it is undoubtedly proved to be beneficial to the people of Independent India. The Government wanted to avoid any hasty or impulsive act as all well constituted authorities