

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS*

DR. T. N. BANERJEE

HONOURABLE GUESTS, LADIES AND FRIENDS,

It is a pleasure to me to be associated with you this afternoon in this hall, which brings back to my mind memories of the past. The College Re-Union day is the day of rejoicings. It is the day on which the past and the present meet together on the same platform. It is an opportunity which makes us feel that there is no break in the continuity between the old and the new. It is on this occasion that the present may seek inspiration in the past and the past may imbibe the vigour and freshness of spirit in contact with the present.

The foundation of Homœopathy lies on the bed-rock of scientific investigations and accurate observations. It has extended throughout the length and the breadth of this country and has found its votaries in practitioners numbering about three hundred thousands, scattered all over India. In spite of the wider acceptance and great popularity which it enjoys, it has suffered and has been still suffering from the apathetic indifference shown by the cultured people of our Society and the Government. The attitude of the orthodox school on the whole has remained hostile all through. Although they profess to be men of science their disbelief lies in the age old prejudices against all the new and unconventional ideas and treatment of diseases. For all the time they have remained doubting and unconvinced without caring to search for or investigating into the truth. Taking full advantage of their exalted position under the comfortable umbrage of the Government they even term the Homœopaths as 'quacks.' But they ought to know that amongst these 'quacks' there have been men of outstanding merit and brilliance whose remarkable personalities

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and professional talents led many a prominent physician of their school to give up his first love and to take to Homœopathy. In the teeth of these adverse circumstances and oppositions Homœopathy has survived and has continued to flourish.

The weakest spot open to attack in the whole domain of Homœopathy lies in the acceptance of the remedial power of high potencies, and the orthodox school has taken its full opportunities to put forward their strongest arguments against Homœopathy directing their attack on this fundamental principle. It seems to them paradoxical how the activity of a drug should be actually increased by attenuations. Further, it has been revealed by physical and chemical tests, known so far, that in the process of attenuations no material drug substance occurs in potencies above 12 c. Depending upon these facts the other school could find ample reasons for disbelieving the truths of Homœopathy and contemptuously ridiculing it as "faith and cold water."

It is known to us that the method of diluting in stages with succussion results in the gradual disappearance of the drug substance and leads to the conversion of the latter into the molecular state. The single drop of a particular dilution used for the next stage, contains only one percent of the original number of molecules. This loss of ninety nine percent evidently is found at every fresh stage of potentisation. Beyond the critical stage the diluted substance may still contain a number of molecules, which it may not be possible to detect even with the help of powerful physical and chemical observations.

A molecule has been supposed to be the smallest particle of a matter capable of existing in free state, and its

diameter is even less than 10^{-7} cm. (or $\frac{1}{10000000}$ cm.; 1 cm. = .3937 inch). In order to give an idea about the size of a molecule it has been said that if molecules number-

ing 40000000 (4 crores) are arranged in rows side by side, they will cover an inch. At a particular stage of dilution we may, therefore, naturally conceive the presence of a number of such molecules gradually less in number for each succeeding stage. I may quote here from a modern book of Chemistry in support of what has already been mentioned.

"Molecules are so small that if we empty one litre of water (1C.5 chattaks) into the ocean with thorough mixing, and then dip out one litre, we will recapture 2200 of the original molecules of water added to the ocean"—*General Chemistry by Holmes.*

The Sceptics would still remain in doubts and continue to argue whether those molecules—supposing they are present—are capable of producing any medicinal effect. Although any direct evidence of the coarse action of a drug in high potencies on healthy people cannot be recorded, their efficacies have been repeatedly proved and clinically verified everywhere in day-to-day practice. Let us remember, experiments came first, the laws afterwards. It was possible for Newton to formulate the law of Gravitation only after he had seen an apple fall. No body could ever imagine gravitation prior to that. A law or a theory is verified simply by its results and through them its working at all times is manifested. It is never possible to see the energy of matter which causes it to work medically on living men, but that energy is revealed to us precisely by learning its results.

It is in recent years that some more light has been thrown in revealing the solution of this problem. Dr. Boyd of Glasgow has proved by using an instrument called the 'emanometer' that all the potencies from the lowest to the highest radiate a kind of emanation. The two most outstanding scientific facts that have emerged out of the experiments conducted by him through that instrument are:

(1) That each drug exhibits a peculiar or special kind of emanation or energy of its own. This means that by

the specific type of energy possessed by one particular drug it can be distinguished from the rest.

(2) That the intensity of the drug energy has been found to increase at each succeeding step of potentiation. That is to say that the energy increases as the potentiation is carried on.

We may guess from those two experimental facts that a drug in the crude state or at a low potency exhibits a very small radiation, but this energy is specific of its own—never suffering any variation during the whole process of potentiation. Also, the strength of this energy is enhanced as the potentiation is carried forward from stage to stage.

In order to test the genuineness of the emanometric phenomena observed by Dr. Boyd, the experiments were conducted before a non-Homœopathic Committee of experts appointed for the purpose under Chairmanship of Lord then Sir Thomas Horder, and those have been accepted as proven scientific facts.

The Sceptic's arguments should be silenced if he cares of course to understand at all, by the facts and findings stated above. His act of stigmatising Homœopathy as 'faith and cold water' should stop once for all. He should know that the drug might have disappeared completely, but the impression which it had left on the diluting fluid charging the latter with its own peculiar energy, could not be falsified.

Friends, I do not propose to enter into the distracting mazes of Homœopathic politics, but we cannot ignore the fact that the status of Homœopathy in Bengal is deplorable. In spite of the persistent active opposition of the Government and the orthodox school Homœopathy has been thriving in this country no doubt, but nothing tangible so far as its recognition and the uplift of its status are concerned, has yet come out. It is true of course, that the Governments—Central and Provincial—have been showing for some-time past signs of softening down their age long perversity by conceding some grants and privileges to Homœopathy

under the pressure of demand by the All India Institute of Homœopathy as well as by the State Faculties existing in the provinces. The Central Government has proposed to sanction a few lacs of rupees for the establishment of a Central Homœopathic College and Hospital in Calcutta. It is possible to give a tangible shape to the proposal only when the authorities of the different institutions as well as the lovers of Homœopathy of the city take it up as a common cause, and shoulder the responsibilities joining their hands together in a spirit of co-operation and fellowship. It has also proposed to offer to the institutionally trained registered Homœopaths Government services after giving them a short preliminary training. The West Bengal Government has sanctioned a few thousands of rupees as token grants to the scheduled colleges of Bengal. These may be considered of course, as gestures of good will on the part of the Governments, but the response is too meagre to mention. We are however looking wistfully to the Governments and the public in general for the fulfilment of our cherished hopes and desires towards uplifting Homœopathy to a position on a par with the Allopathic System of Medical treatment. Due to party factions our demands, instead of being forceful, have hitherto been disjointed and weak. I may tell you, friends, that at no time the importance of unity amongst the different sections of our brotherhood and their mutual fellowship has been so keenly felt as now. In putting up a fight against odds, the co-ordinated strength of the fighters is of primary importance, and this fight will have to be pursued with a greater vigour till the final goal is reached.

It has been often said that the education imparted in the existing Homœopathic Colleges is far below the standard. It is true of course when we consider the tremendous progress and developments of the modern medical science. But when we consider the Central Health Ministers' project of a two years' course in which training will be imparted to men for the purpose of qualifying them for Auxiliary

Health Service in the rural area where they will virtually serve as doctors, we certainly do feel that we do not merit such remarks on the low standard of our training, and that our institutionally trained people must be in no way inferior to those referred to above. Certainly we should add to the store of our knowledge from different sources of scientific investigations, but a four years' course of training in a bonafide Homœopathic College and Hospital, inspite of its being not of a high standard, should not be summarily dismissed as inefficient. For ordinary therapeutic practice in Homœopathy this training cannot be considered inadequate. Our method of training and education has evolved out according to our own needs and requirements. It leaves much room for improvements no doubt but it should not be allowed to run for an unholy competition with other sister methods of treatment. It should find its own way to improvement and expansion by individualising itself.

Friends, let us not therefore, be discouraged or disheartened by the attack and antagonism, frowns and threats of the opponents, however acute and bitter they may be. At the same time, let us not indulge in laxity and half heartedness in our pursuit of knowledge, let us be aware of ignorance and carelessness while taking up a case, let us not be deluded by the self-ostentation about the few 'lucky-shots' in our prescribing.

It has been complained that the modern Homœopaths "seem to suffer from a sneaking inferiority complex." Let us be faithful and sincere to our principles and guard ourselves cautiously against such a stigma. I may quote here Dr. Skinner to the point through Dr. Margery Blackie from her presidential address to the British Faculty in 1951.

"Homœopathy being but in its infancy, it wants men of independent courage who can stand upon their feet regardless of outside organisation and fearless of numbers. With such men to nurse her, she is independent of allopathy and all its conservative rights and privileges, government grants etc. Homœopathy being but a young shoot of the

noble and eternal tree of life and truth, it has to be made strong by opposition by contact with strong and warlike elements."

Friends, before I close I thank you for the patient hearing you have given me. If I have failed to prove myself worthy of your expectations, the fault is not of mine. The responsibility of choosing me for this office is certainly yours. Let us pray to God, and invoke the blessing of our immortal master Hahnemann that we may have wisdom, strength and courage to fight against the various odds that may beset our path to progress and may even threaten our very existence.

CONDURANGO

DR. S. B. PAL, D.M.S., GONDIA

Condurango is a rarely used drug and is derived from vegetable kingdom. Proving and clinical indications of this drug is not so elaborate.

It can be taken as one of the principal drugs for the treatment of sub-acute, chronic and malignant diseases, specially new growths. Epithelial tissues are mainly affected by it. It is an antipsoric and also antisiphilitic drug.

Here I will mention some indications where I have formed the efficacy of this drug. I have successfully used this drug in (1) Ulcers and cracks of lip, (2) Tongue, (3) Rectal orifice, (4) New growth of tongue, (5) Scabies, which is resistive to ordinary treatments.

The characteristic indications of ulcers are (1) Healing condition of the ulcer stops ; (a) healthy granulation tissues disappear, (b) surface and edge of the ulcer becomes white, (c) watery white discharge is found, (d) ulcer is almost painless, (e) sights of this type of ulcers are in lips, corners of lips and rectal orifice.