

# THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

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## EDITORIAL

### HOMOEOPATHIC PHARMACEUTICS AND THE DRUGS ACT

The editor has been associated with the making of the homoeopathic pharmacopoeia of India for quite some time now, and in this connection he had ample opportunities to visit various homoeopathic pharmacies, manufacturing units, research centres of drug standardisation etc. Many of the manufacturing units are having a fair turnover from their manufactures of single medicines and specialities; while some produce them from the basic raw materials, some other produce regular potencies only from back potencies, depending upon the demand of the profession.

Those who prepare mother tinctures purchase raw materials from the market. Barring a few units none appears to have any arrangement for verification of raw materials, their testing for purity or identification etc. and therefore a doubt creeps in one's mind about the standard of the product.

Some of the manufacturing units are housed in very old buildings which neither have the look nor been built for the purpose. Proper air circulation, lighting, ventilation etc. have never been thought of. Cleanliness is also unknown in them. In spite of the fact that they are making profits, they are inclined neither to modernise their factories, nor to introduce modern machines which may prove more profitable.

Homoeopathy is being practised in this country for more than one hundred years, and over the period manufacturing of medicines has also grown. Many manufacturers have created a goodwill for their products. They are helping the cause of alleviation of human suffering with the same devotion as that of a homoeopathic physician.

Homoeopathic philosophy is very subtle and is therefore open to criticism; when a medicine prescribed does not produce the desired result, the physician thinks that the selection of medicine was incorrect and so tries to review the case. But seldom does he suspect the genuineness or the standard of the remedy, so great a faith he has in the pharmacy that supplies

the medicines. Only those who are sure of their own prescriptions have the courage to suspect the medicine.

The homoeopathic pharmacopoeia of India lays down standards of materials to be used in the preparation of medicines, and presently it is contemplated to prescribe standards for the mother tinctures also; it is a step in the right direction. This we believe will make sure that the raw materials used are of the right quality and the final products are also of standard quality. And potencies prepared from these standard drugs should produce expected results in patients.

The manufacturing units should gear themselves up without delay to meet the rigorous demands of the standards laid down. The authorities have given them considerable concessions in terms of time to fulfil the need, but it appears that there is a lack of will on the part of the manufacturers to comply. Unless there is a pressure we do not move. This has become a way of life with us. The pharmaceutical industry has a very fine heritage and has served the sick very honestly, and I am sure it will rise to the occasion to improve its present state and get ready to work hand in hand with the government to root out unscrupulous and substandard manufacturers.

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