

THE HAHNEMANNIAN GLEANINGS

Vol. XLIX

MARCH 1982

No. 3

EDITORIAL

THE INTERNATIONAL HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL LEAGUE

The Congress of the Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (International Homoeopathic Medical League) will be held this month (29th March to 2nd April) at the seaside resort of Brighton, Sussex, England. Many of us do not know the League. What it is, what it is for and for whom it is?

The Liga was founded by a group of homoeopathic physicians in 1925 (19th Sept. 1925). Prior to this, since 1831 to 1925, many international congresses were held in the homoeopathic world but none of these meetings had official status nor structure. It was with this view in the background to give an official status to the deliberations of these congresses, the Liga was founded. The grand old master, Dr. Pierre Schmidt is one of those who was instrumental in its establishment. Since establishment, except for the world war years, it has met every year. India had the privilege to hold the meetings in 1967 and 1977, both at New Delhi.

Some feel that the Liga is just a body where homoeopaths from all over the world come and meet. Some say it is an important body, a supreme body controlling the affairs of Homoeopathy. Some do not even know that such a body exists. Whatever said and done, in reality, the body is patronised by a very small number. It has no control over the profession and it cannot wield any pressure on any country. If we as homoeopaths have to receive any recognition we must make this body strong and powerful. Our profession needs a body which can represent our demands to organisations like WHO and UNESCO. But unfortunately the policies of this body are detrimental to the desired growth.

The present rules voted in 1965 are in force in respect of its membership. Articles 6 and 7 say that only doctors in medicine who have graduated from a state university can be active members with right to vote. In this context I wish to bring to the notice of our readers excerpts from an article published by Alain Horvilleur, first General Secretary of the Liga in *Bulletin du Syndicat National des Medicines Homoeopathiques Francaises*, No. 3, 1981.

It reads, "Now there are countries where homoeopaths are not doctors but who have taken courses at special homoeopathic schools, issuing their own diplomas. After analysis it appears that, if certain homoeopaths who are directly elected in this manner have received a valid education, others lack scientific foundation and an objective method of reasoning. With regard to this situation there are those members who think good non-medical homoeopaths are better than those doctors in medicine who do not respect the laws of the doctrine and others stick to the letter of the statutes—a thing that the General Secretary can only approve. It stands to reason that they should not be changed if the Liga is to keep its identity and its *raison d'être*."

It makes a very interesting reading and at the same time we feel sorry that correct and factual situation existing in this part of the world has not been properly projected to the international society all these years. In other words, it means that the supreme body (if it calls itself one) in Homocopathy in the world recognises a medical graduate from the university with a short term course in homoeopathic education as its active member, but refuses to call a diploma holder who has spent nearly four years learning the preclinical and para medical subjects and in addition philosophy and art of practice of homoeopathic medicine. We do not know if the Liga is aware of the fact that Homocopathy is included as a health care system in the National Health Scheme. Government of India has started clinics for their staff, aids institutions and hospitals, allocates funds for research and education, and the whole system of this discipline is controlled by an Act of Parliament. It is only recently that a few universities in this country have taken up graduate courses. In fact, the present president of the Liga is the vice president of this important body, the Central Council of Homocopathy, which is responsible for the recognition of courses, curricula, and holding of examinations and recognition of institutions. We are sure that the president and national vice president who claim to have taken up the matter at the Rome Congress will pursue it further for the legitimate recognition due to the institutionally qualified homoeopathic practitioners in the country at the level of the international homoeopathic society.

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