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EDITORIAL

HOMOEOPATHIC RESEARCH AND PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS

Majority of general homoeopaths of our country are of the view that, Homoeopathy, being a complete science and art, does not require any research; everything required for rational practice of medicine is there in the *Organon*, the *Chronic Diseases* and materia medica. The only thing required of the practitioner is to comprehend the teaching of the Hahnemann as thoroughly as possible and strive to apply them in practice as scrupulously as practicable. As it is, this idea is quite true. But, fortunately a large number of them have now started to realise that teachings of the *Organon* and *Chronic Diseases* as well as the materials of materia medica are all solely based on the life-long research work of Hahnemann in collaboration with his direct disciples; and also that, those teachings would not have been assimilable and applicable for us without the dedicated works of Hahnemann's followers like Boenninghausen, Hering, three Allens, Kent, Boger, Roberts and scores of others. We Indian homoeopaths have so long thrived on the immense store of contributions to Homoeopathy left by them. It is only lately that we have started to realise that even these great workers have left many works for us. It is high time for us to think whether we can do something to enrich Homoeopathy, the sole emancipator of ailing humanity.

Another wrong notion prevails in our mind. We are generally habituated to think that any research work involves costly and elaborate paraphernalia and gadgets, and corresponding amount of sophistication which are beyond the reach of any individual practitioner.

This may be true for some of the fundamental researches like finding out and establishing the precise nature of potentised medicines especially beyond the Avogadro's limit, the actual *modus operandi* in their pathogenetic and therapeutic effects, the real nature of vital force and its *modus operandi* in health, immunity, disease and cure; all in the light of recent developments in biophysics, biochemistry, cybernetics etc.

But there remain a good number of works that can be done by any intelligent homoeopath practising in the field. And of these again, there are

some areas of research in which no headway is possible without sincere, honest and active cooperation and collaboration of the homoeopaths practising in the field. Only qualifications required of the worker for this kind of research are as follows:

(1) Some adeptness in carefully and correctly observing all possible data related with particular cases, including particularly the indication of the remedies.

(2) Some adeptness in meticulously observing the changes occurring after the medication, taking into clear consideration other particular measures, and also change of environmental conditions if there be any.

These observations should also include relevant clinical and pathological investigations as far as practicable.

(3) Honest and unbiased recording of all facts as they are observed. This is not so easy as it appears. Apart from the relative limitation of the power of observation, every man has an inherent and almost unavoidable tendency to tell and write what he likes or expects, even exaggerate them, and overlook or deliberately omit many features or facts which is subjectively disliked or not wanted by him. It is very difficult to paint your friend whom you love most without overcoloring his good qualities and overlooking his dark spots. But in scientific matters we have got to be consciously guarded about these subjective biases of our ego as much as possible and try to tell and write the whole truth as much as observed by us, avoiding any sort of tampering with them. Even in spite of all these cautions it is just next to impossible to make our observations and records cent per cent complete and perfect. This the ground from which arise the necessity of another quality.

Quality of open mindedness in exchanging and sharing one's observations, experiences and interpretations with others. Very unfortunately many of our Indian homoeopaths are not being able to give up the habit of ancient artisans, of keeping their art very secret personally with themselves at great detriment to development of their own selves as well as to that of Homoeopathy. This unscientific and uncongenial habit must be given up at any cost without delay, if we want to increase our collective knowledge.

(5) A little training in statistical analysis, collation and documentation of observed facts.

Now let us consider the items of research that cannot be done on a large scale with proper efficiency without the active and conscious participation of general practitioners and those which can be done isolatedly, but even then more easily and effectively by such participationers.

RESEARCH ITEMS IN WHICH PARTICIPATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IS INDISPENSABLE

(1) Finding out the *genus epidemicus* in any epidemic involving any particular region or the country as a whole.

(2) Finding the efficient and effective prophylactic remedy or remedies

for any fixed miasm like small pox, chicken pox, cholera, measles, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough etc.

(3) Clinical confirmation of the symptoms of recently proved drugs.

(4) Eliciting and establishing of clinical symptoms of various drugs, a large bulk of which given by our predecessors have immensely enriched our *materia medica*.

(5) Establishing how homoeopathic remedies can help in removing many a trouble related with various methods of family planning.

In most of these items the general practitioners can add immense material of great value even without the aid of costly and complicated investigation by laboratory etc. But this does not at all mean that these investigations are any way less important. For instance, immunological tests may add immense value to the statistical study in the field of Homoeoprophylaxis; various pathological data may be of great value in further extension and confirmation of clinical observations. A little collective effort through associations etc. may make these investigations easily workable.

RESEARCH ITEMS IN WHICH PARTICIPATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS MAY NOT BE INDISPENSABLE, BUT CAN BE DONE BY THEM IN MORE DEPENDABLE WAY

(1) Drug proving can be conducted more dependably by voluntary organisations the sole aim of which is to serve the cause of Homoeopathy rather than to earn money by the work.

(2) Literary research, like enriching our repertory, can best be done by the collective efforts of the general practitioners.

Before we conclude, it is necessary to mention that here we have used term *research* not in its specific sense but in its general meaning, including in its purview all forms of scientific investigation in the different fields.

Conduction of the various research works by the general practitioners has now become quite feasible in India through various local branches of the national homoeopathic organisation, Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (HMAI), only if its central research committee as well as the general members be sufficiently active and enthusiastic in this highly important matter.
