

Thirdly, we have to co-ordinate the different systems of Medicine and introduce classifications in the rank and file of the practitioners. Registration by the Government will do no such thing. Every one of us has to assess his or her worth and be given scope for improvement. Incentive has to be provided for so that he or she may put in greater efforts and become more useful to the Nation.

I hope we have now a clear picture of what we propose to do, as participants of this Vasant Sammelan, to day and tomorrow. Now let us pray that the Lord may lead us to success and glory.

VANDE MATARAM

ORISSA HOMŒOPATHIC CONFERENCE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

DR. J. N. MAZUMDAR, M.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.S., D.M.S., *etc.*

Our honoured guest Sri Mahatab, Ladies and Brother Practitioners of Orissa,

It is indeed a pleasure and a great honour for me to be asked to preside in this conference of yours. First of all let me apologise for not being able to address you in your own language. I have been working on the cause of Homœopathy for some time now and I am not in the habit of presiding over conferences—as such I do not know whether I should be able to discharge the duties of your President.

In any case as a worker for the cause of Homœopathy I have certain ideas and I shall try to give you those so that you might think out some line of action which may fit the genius of this State.

I have always thought about the propagation of Homœopathy in the following order :

A. Whatever we might do to propagate Homœopathy the first thing that we should ask ourselves should be—will it be conducive to the interest of our "PEOPLE"? To my mind the answer has always been—"YES." Because it gives us a way to alleviate human suffering and to cure diseases, wherever it is curable. It is a simple way, suitable to the genius of our people. It does away with the necessities of a lot of diagnostic paraphernalia so unnecessary for the art of healing. The most expensive Homœopathy practitioner is certainly cheaper than the ordinary practitioner of any other system.

As such it is only Homœopathy that can be made available to our poverty stricken masses.

And we must not forget that the training of a doctor is essential to a Homœopath if he had to produce results attainable by Homœopathy with the precision of science. It is true that a large number of self-trained persons have done a lot of good to the people by practising Homœopathy but the absence of knowledge of its limitation may endanger life by acts of omissions and commissions and any such death certainly over-shadows hundreds of cures.

B. Whatever we do to propagate Homœopathy should be done for the best interests of the Profession—I mean the present practitioners as also the generation of practitioners to come.

With regard to the present practitioners we should always try to safeguard their legitimate rights and privileges and try to find out means of re-educating them in the shortest period of time. With regard to the future generation we should try to see that they become complete physicians and Homœopaths as a specially enjoying the confidence of the people and having a status in life for which they are fit.

Gentlemen, I am glad to tell you that our Government at the Centre and many of the governments in the States are now alive to the beneficial effects of this system of

medicine and our legislators and leaders are taking keen interest in putting Homœopathy in its legitimate place. It is our duty to help them in directing these attempts to channels conducive to the best interest of the people and the profession.

Coming to the necessities of this State, one finds that Homœopathy is suitable to the genius of the people. And as a natural corollary to the law of demand and supply we have a large number of practitioners in this State of Orissa who are helping the people of Orissa according to their capacities. Unfortunately State help is here withheld for reasons best known to the Medical Directorate of the State. Any attempt to fall in line with the suggestion that would come from Central Government vis-a-vis Homœopathic recognisance must keep in view the necessity of the people and bonafide practitioners must be allowed to continue to practice. They must be allowed to enjoy the legitimate privileges of practitioners without which their patients might be in difficulty. At the same time previleges which are enjoyed by Medical practitioners by virtue of their specialised training in allied branches of medicine particularly in Medico legal aspects and insurance works must only be left to the qualified section of the profession. So much about the present practitioners.

For the future a Homœopathic College as envisaged by H.E.C. report should be established by the State Government.

This would certainly take time. In the meantime arrangements should be made with the colleges in West Bengal for the training of students from the State of Orissa.

There is also a move by the Central Government to start the training of auxillary health personnels who would be assisting the doctors in their works.

I am afraid, condition in this State are such that any short circuit efforts to replace the qualified doctors will fail because of the cost of the Allopathic medicine alone, as

they have failed in Rural health centres in West Bengal. I am afraid that these auxillary health personnels will behave as doctors and will automatically take up Homœopathic system of treatment as is done by large number of passed and unpassed compounders in the country.

I humbly suggest that at least for this State these auxillary personnel should be given additional training in Homœopathic system particularly in the art of its Therapeutics.

Trained as they would be in the present day accepted methods of preventive medicine particularly in the branches of "Notification," "Isolation," "Quarantine" and "Disinfection", They would be definitely an asset to the countryside if they are given training in the Homœopathic system. All these can only be achieved if they start a Homœopathic Board to regularise the education and practice of Homœopathy in the State.

I must sound a note of warning that such a Board must have homœopaths in it and representatives of Legislators, University and the municipality.

It must not be subservient to the allopathic State Council—to allow homœopathy to develop in its own genius.

Last of all the State should have also its own pharmaceutical manufactories.

Gentlemen, forgive me for taking so much of your valuable time and allow me to wish that Homœopathy and Homœopaths may have a glorious time in this State.

A NEGLECTED SYSTEM

Presiding recently over the annual conference of the Orissa Homœopathic Association at Cuttack, Dr. J. N. Mazumdar, Vice-Chairman of the Homœopathic Enquiry Committee, Government of India, observed with justifiable pride that even the most expensive homœopathic treatment