

Recognition, a blessing or a curse.

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The withdrawal of recognition of the M. B. degree of Indian Universities by the British Medical Council has sent a thrill of horror and indignation through the land. But I fail to understand why such big people are making mountain of a mole-hill. Those who are unnerved by the decision should take courage from the Homœopaths of every land. How in the teeth of vehement opposition this band of silent workers are pushing their case to the fore front before the bar of public opinion in every clime and land. How the simplest of truths discovered by an unknown physician of Germany, unaided by state-help, has been able to make itself felt wherever there is suffering and disease.

The allopaths of this country in particular were being trained and patronized by the power that be and its super-masters in that distant island. They have been all along over-guided and have depended on the kindness of the islanders for their inspiration. They have therefore received a rude shock and it will take them some time to come back to their own.

If they think aright I hope that they will at once see the evils this over-guidance was inculcating upon them. It has rendered them impotent and dependent. They simply reproduce what their over-sea masters are pleased to observe and this has entailed no small suffering on the public here. A theory is hit upon by one of them and it costs millions of life in India to see it properly experimented and thus only to be rejected for another fond hobby of a second other master. If this shock could bring the Indian physicians to their own it would be a blessing to this unfortunate land. This over-sea control has inaimed them to such an extent that while homœopaths of unknown name and fame are enriching their materia medica by the addition of indigenous drugs it required a P. C. Roy to add them to the armoury of allopathy.

Another moral gain will be that they will be able to think for themselves and I am sure that once the Indian brain allowed to have freeplay it will act wonders. It therefore behoves them to gird up their loins and rise to the occasion and let the over-sea doctors alone. In one decade, I am confident, that the whole country will be honeycombed with chemists' shops and research laboratories and the result achieved by Indian doctors, who are far superior in intellect to their over-sea masters, will be wonders even to the gods.

I wish that they should remember that they are the sons of those sages whose accomplishments in the domain of the healing science and art is yet the admiration of the whole world. The western law of therapeutics is yet in its infancy and it will now fall upon their shoulder to bring it to perfection and harmony. What their over-sea masters have been catering to them is nothing but stolen pages from the therapeutic codes of their glorious ancestors.

How many drugs they yet know of? They have been excelled in that even by homœopathy of the other day. They not yet have been able to catch even a glimpse of the curative action of the minerals, while the achievements of Ayurvedic system here will remain a hall-mark for all systems to attain, though their *ghritas* and oils offer yet another unexplored ground for any amount of research.

The causes of diseases ascertained by their over-sea masters have got to be re-examined and re-shelved. From the perplexing variety of their theories it is clear that they have not yet been able to bring the study to a point which can have even the remotest semblance to a scientific study, and one is apt to go away with the idea that it is a maze with no way out.

It is neither possible nor is it our intention to deal with the subject fully here, but it will suffice to say that left to themselves the Indian medical men will be able to give regeneration even to allopathic medicine and surgery. But to

bring about that consummation it will not do if they yet depend on texts from that far off land and in this respect the students of the Astanga Ayurved Vidyalyaya and of other similar institutions stand in better stead than the M. B's of the recognised universities, as the latter will yet remain handicaped by texts inspired by their over-sea lords.

In conclusion, it will not be out of place here to point out that the most important part of the whole work before them will be the starting of institutions which will educate pupils in their own vernaculars. The transformation of the now-defunct R. G. Kar school into the present day Carmichael College as well as the recent changes in the curriculum of medical colleges and schools has combined to scare away many a promising genius. The indelbtedness of indigent Bengal is not at all insignificant to those meek band of medical men (viz., the ex-students of the R. G. Kar school) who yet overflow a good area of rural Bengal. The introduction of vernacular will not only usher a new era by way of simplifying the difficulties attendant on the mastery of a subject written in a foreign language, but will elevate the *morale* of the students to a considerable extent by not allowing the sense of superiority of a foreign culture to permeate into their brain which it is apt to do if taught in their language. As an inevitable result original works will flood the market and graduates having real grasp of the subject will daily add new discoveries and noble achievements hitherto unknown.

SYMPHYTUM IN FRACTURED RIB

THOMAS SIMPSON, M. D.

Tom Wain chimney sweep, slipped over a polished floor, causing fracture of the third rib. A broad bandage tightly applied to the chest wall kept the pain from causing him to exclaim during deep breathing and from my own experience long ago I found *Symphytum officinalis* 3 to be the specific remedy—affording immediate and permanent relief.

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