

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE COMES OF AGE



**Anthony Baird, Director
Institute for Complementary Medicine**

The revolution has taken place with so little fuss that the victors almost feel a sense of let-down. Ordinary people during the 1970's who would hesitantly mention some successful complementary treatment under their breath, now talk about it openly. The Media seems comfortable with most branches of Complementary Medicine and it is almost a status symbol to mention herbal remedies, Chinese medicine, reflexology, and many others. It seems such a short time ago that respected organisations dismissed acupuncture as mumbo jumbo and homoeopathy as a confidence trick. Professional courses for practitioners now include Diploma and Degree qualifications. The latest of these is the Bsc(Hons) Degree in Health Sciences for Complementary Medicine developed by the University of Central Lancashire. These courses are building a great corps of qualified practitioners. This development is as much due to public interest and the determination of qualified practitioners as to official attitudes.

Sorting the wheat from the chaff

The real problem that remains is how does the public identify a qualified practitioner? The Yellow Pages, amongst other forms of advertising, gives information but is this what the public wants? No, not quite. Such advertising says little about the quality, experience and knowledge of the practitioner and whether they work to a Code of Conduct. They do not tell the enquirer if the practitioner is subject to an independent disciplinary body.

Of course there are many registers. They have been in existence since the time small groups got together to study and the course leaders formed their own 'in-house' listings from their students. Today there are so many that they tend to confuse the public and Health Authorities alike.

Register and standards

It was inevitable that a National Register would have to come into being to enable all the

disciplines and techniques, which make up Complementary Medicine, to act in unity and become an effective and permanent part of the health provision of this country, either through the NHS or private insurance.

Such a Register has to be built on certain imperatives. The General Medical Council is a guide. Each practitioner applying for membership must be able to show competence in practise, evidence of underpinning knowledge, the ability to make a diagnosis within predetermined parameters, plan a course of treatment and know when to refer on. Patient safety is paramount.

The Register must apply standards which are based on best practise according to each discipline and technique.

The Council of the Register will consist of a majority of representatives from each discipline or Division, together with those representing the public who will guarantee public insight into the management and discipline of the Register.

Unity

It has been suggested, in some quarters, that each therapy should have its own Statutory Act but such a proposal is hardly in the interests of complementary practitioners. As self-employed groups of between 50 and 4,000 members, they are unlikely to have a strong voice with Government, let alone the public, who might have difficulty in attributing authority and objectivity to what would appear to be small competing bodies.

However, as a unified Register of some 30,000 members, but with each discipline maintaining its own autonomy, they would become a national voice governing a professional service able to meet a growing number of commitments. The single National Register will solve the problem of multiple registration and costs for practitioners who acquire more than one skill and where they would otherwise have to pay annual fees to several different organisations. It will also avoid the possibility

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continued from page 142 ...

of competing loyalties which is an untidy, as well as costly, prospect.

The creation of 'in-house' listings must now give way to the security of a united body, governed by its membership and serving the public safely and correctly while maintaining a correct relationship with other branches of the medical profession.

The move towards a national organisation and registration culminated in the formation of the British Council of Complementary Medicine and the British Register of Complementary Practitioners in 1989. The British Register is structured to provide autonomous Divisions* for each group of disciplines.

Entry is through the submission of evidence of competence at pre-determined levels.

To date, the Register has been administered by the ICM. However, the work is being gradually handed over to the Charity, the British Council of Complementary Medicine (BCCM). This body will consist of a majority of practitioner representatives from the British Register and a minority group representing the Legal interests, Universities, Central and Local Government, Trade Unions, and the Health Care Professions.

Complementary Medicine means to 'complement' the needs of the patient at physical, mental, emotional and vitality (spirit) areas of consciousness. The concept of vitality is one that is familiar to the homoeopath and the members of 370 organisations which are affiliated to the ICM. These organisations are leading the way towards national standards of education.

The British Council for Complementary Medicine is being used as the guardian of professional standards and as a spokesman for all professional practitioners. It will also serve the public by ensuring that complaints are investigated by an independent body which is also a Registered Educational Charity.

Complementary Medicine in its many forms is a system of medicine in its own right. It has come of age and is now ready to join the other great institutions of the State both in the UK and all over the world.

BCCM Registered Charity No. 1043725

* Divisions of the Register

Aromatherapy, Chromotherapy, Energy Medicine, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Massage, Remedial Massage, Chinese Medicine, Counselling, Healer/Counselling, Hypnotherapy, Japanese Medicine, Nutrition, Osteopathy, Reflexology.

George Macleod Obituary *continued from page 137 ...*

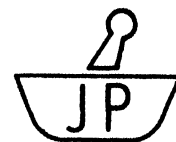
He also addressed many lay and professional groups around the country. At the invitation of the American Association of Holistic Medicine, he taught at seminars in Washington DC in 1982, 1983, 1984, and in Philadelphia in 1988, to Veterinarians from all parts of the United States. In April 1992, he addressed a seminar of Italian Homoeopathic Veterinary Surgeons in Cortona on the borders of Tuscany and Umbria.

During the late 1980's, George Macleod wrote a series of popular reference books for the homoeopathic treatment of cattle, pigs, goats, dogs, and cats, and also a very useful Veterinary Materia Medica. He was admitted to Membership of the Faculty of Homoeopathy in 1987 and gained his Fellowship in 1992.

George Macleod was an inspiration to all of us who came into Homoeopathy during the last 10 to 15 years. He knew more about the subject than the rest of us put together but he was always willing to share his knowledge and to give help at any time. We respected him enormously and his guidance and good sense were readily available. We knew him as a friend, mentor, and a far-sighted, intelligent, man and we will all remember his warm smile and quiet sense of humour.

Contributed by Mr. Francis Hunter, MRCVS, VetMF Hom.

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NEW ADDITIONS TO THE BURFORD LIBRARY

Author

Title

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Cook, T. M. | Samuel Hahnemann, His Life and Times. |
| Coulter, H. | Homoeopathic Influences in 19th Century
Allopathic Therapeutics. |
| Coulter, H. L.
& Fisher, B. L. | A Shot in the Dark. |
| Day, C. | Homoeopathy, First Aid for Pets. |
| Day, C. | Natural Remedies for your Cat. |
| Day, C. | Homoeopathic Treatment of Beef and Dairy
Cattle. |
| Elliott, M.
& Pinkus, T. | Homoeopathy, the Shepherd's Guide. |
| Elliott, M. &
Pinkus, T. | Horses and Homoeopathy, a Guide for Yard and
Stable. |
| Jansen, J.W. | Synthetic Bedside Repertory for Gestation,
Childbirth and Childbed. |
| Lessell, C.B. | World Traveller's Manual of Homoeopathy. |
| Lessell, C.B. | The Infinitesimal Dose. |
| Lockie, A.
& Geddes, N. | Homoeopathy: the Principles & Practice of
Treatment |
| Macleod, G. | Treatment of Cattle by Homoeopathy. |
| Macleod, G. | Pigs, the Homoeopathic Approach to the
Treatment and Prevention of Disease. |
| *Murphy, R. | Homoeopathic Medical Repertory (1st Edition). |
| Murphy, R. | Fundamentals of Materia Medica, Vols.1 & 2. |
| Sankaran, R. | Spirit of Homoeopathy. |
| Schiff, M. | The Memory of Water |
| Smith, T. | Homoeopathy for Psychological Illnesses. |
| Smith, T. | Homoeopathy for Teenager Problems. |
| Smith, T. | Homoeopathy for the Menopause. |
| Smith, T. | Homoeopathy for Everyday Stress Problems. |
| Smith, T. | Homoeopathy for Pregnancy and Nursing Mothers. |
| Smith, T. | Homoeopathy for Babies and Children. |
| Souter, K. | Homoeopathy for the Third Age. |
| Souter, K. | Homoeopathy: Heart and Soul. |
| Vannier, L. | Typology in Homoeopathy. |
| Van Zandvoort, R. | Complete Repertory of the Mind. |
| Vithoukias, G. | Essence of Materia Medica. |
| Whitmont, E.C. | Alchemy of Healing. |
| Woolf, H.G. | Your Healthy Cat. |

* Denotes Reference book only.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The North Cotswold Homoeopathic Group

The Group assembles at 7.45pm for a 8.00pm start. Admission 50 pence for members, £1.00 non-members including refreshments. Meetings held at Winchcombe Library, Winchcombe, Glos.

For further information: 01242-621-281

Bromley Homoeopathic Group

All meetings are held at St Peter's and St Paul's Church Rooms, Bromley (behind Allders)

Start at 7.30pm for 8.00pm and finish at 10pm. Free to members. £1.00 to non-members.

For further information: Jane Gilchrist, Secretary on 0181-290-1721.

Okehampton & District Homoeopathic Group

Meetings to be held the third Thursday of the month at the Riverside Centre, Castle Hospital, Okehampton 7.30pm.

First Aid Homoeopathic Classes with Mr Paul Nelson £2.50 per class on Thursdays (but not December)

For further information: Mrs Sturton 01837-53096

Caterham Homoeopathic Group

Meetings to be held on the third Thursday of each month, St Mary's Church Hall, Church Hill, Caterham-7.45 for 8.00pm.

16 Nov.

For further information: 01883-346-817

The North London Homoeopathic Group.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm at St Stephens Church Hall at the corner of Village Road and Park Avenue, Enfield.

Jan 15th: Margaret Lambert: An Introduction to Homoeopathy

Feb 19th: Erika Slowman-Reflexology.

For further information: 0181-455-2107 ask for Sam Needleman.

Epsom and Leatherhead Homoeopathy & Healing Group

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the St John's Ambulance Hall, Hook Road, Epsom. Annual Subscription £6 (couples:£8, Unwaged £4) Admission £2 for non-members.

December: no meeting.

For further information: Leane Salaman 01372-278-4298

South East Essex Homoeopathic Group

All meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday in the month, in Swans Green Hall, Hart Road, Thundersley, Essex. Doors open at 7.15pm.

All are welcome.

December: No meeting. Next meeting Jan 9th, 1996.

For further information tel/fax: 01268-753-544 ask for Len Littlejohn. The No. 1 bus from Rayleigh Station will drop you outside the Hall. A simple map giving road directions is available on request.

The Devon Homoeopathic Group

Meetings are held on the third TUESDAY of each month. The Meetings are always friendly and informal and non-members are most welcome! Refreshments and 'Question Time' follow the talks and a wide range of books is always available.

December-no meeting.

For further information: 01364-731-49 ask for Anne Ellison. Or write to Jenny Rainbow, 'Linden Lea,' Shaldon Road, Combeinteignhead, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 4RR.

The Fife Homoeopathic Group

Will meet at the Muiredge Surgery, Merlin Crescent, Buckhaven, Fife. Please contact the secretary on the following number.

For further information: 01592-715502

The Pinner and District Homoeopathic Group.

Meetings are held at Friends Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow.

For further information: 0181-429-3724.

East Dorset Homoeopathic Group

Please note: The Group has changed Halls from Wimborne Memorial Hall to:

St Catherine's Church Hall, Llewens Lane, Wimborne, Dorset.

Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month except January and August. The Group has a selection of books and tapes from the Guildford group.

North London Irritable Bowel Syndrome Group at The Parlour, The Bourne Methodist Church, The Bourne, London N14. All meetings are in the 'Luther Hall' except in May and November when it is held in the 'Augustine Hall'. Everybody welcome. Meetings held every 4th Tuesday evening.

For further information: Dr Allen on 0181-441-2704 or Mrs Badley on 081-441-7876.