

## DISSEMINATION OF HOMEOPATHY

Human knowledge has become unmanageably vast every science has begotten a dozen more, each subtler and more complex than the rest. The entire corpus of medical knowledge has split in to thousand isolated fragments, Homeopathy is one among them. Two centuries back, a German physician amazed the medical world with the discovery of a scientific technique to establish the curative power of substances in infinitesimal dilutions. the said medicament came to India during the life time of that great master Dr. Samuel Hahnemann the founder of Homeopathy through a German physician & geologist, who came to India round about 1810 for geological investigation and landed /remained at Bengal, where he distributed Homeopathic medicine to people. Homeopathy took its root in Panjab (India) in 1939 when Dr. Honigberger visited India and treated Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Knowledge of medicine has a long history but a very slow evolution and homeopathy has no exception to it. In India homeopathy Resolution was placed before parliament in 1948 for which an enquiry committee was appointed to find out the scientific basis of Homeopathy. In 1949, the committee declared that Homeopathy is a scientific system of medicine. Thereafter it is being practised as a legally accepted system of treatment.

Because of its popularity/laurel/distinction Central Council of Homeopathy Act was passed in 1973 to standardise the education & treatment for providing professional guidance . In 1978 Central Council for Research in Homeopathy was constituted as an Autonomous organisation under society registration Act. XXI of 1960 to carry on various researches on Homeopathy.

In Orissa, in its Legislative Assembly Homeopathy Act. was passed in 1956 conferring an official status to Homeopathic self made practioners to practice Homeopathy under legal protection.

In pre-independence era a system of treatment which was not accepted as a therapeutic procedure now because of its efficacy/low cost/no side effect has gained wide spread popularity among various starta of people. Govt. of India has given due credence to patronise the system by creating a seperate dept. in the name of "ISM & H".

Coming to a small state like Orissa, it is visualised, the developement and growth of Homeopathy is substantial/visible incomparison to its existence and developement in pre-Independence era in its various sectors. A comparative statement of the Homeopathy is prjected between pre-Independence era and after 50 year if Indipendence which gives a clear picture.

10th April, 1755 is the birthday of that great savant, genius/savoir of millions of suffering humanity. Let us now discuss about that great sole Dr. Hahnemann and place in the history of medicine.

It is indubitable and infallable truth that "Life of all great men remind us we can make our life sublime, departing shall leave behind us in the foot prints in the sands of the time".

On 10th April many people assemble, congregate and gather to pay their great tribute, homage, approbation, appreciation and acknowledgement to that great soul and that great genius who is the medical saviour of millions of frustrated suffering humanity down from the revival period of medicine to the presence era. He is no one but Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy.

Impartially, Sensibly, if want to visualise the place of Hanemann in the medical history, the "Evolution of medicine" Chronologically has to be looked for, which is delineated below.

During antiquity, early men were believing on "Supernatural Theory" that mean the diseases are due to rath of God, invasion of evil spirits and malevolent influences of stars and planets. As a logical sequence the medicine was practised. consisted in appeasing God by saerifices and rituals, Driving evil sprits from human body by noise or violence and using.

Next comes the "Indian medicine" Its orgin is traced back to the vedic time about 5000 BC. During this period medical history was associated with mythological figures. Dhanwatari the Hindu God of medicine is said to have been born as a result of churning the ocean during the "Tug of war" between the Gods and Demons.

Indian medicine is belived on "Tridosh Theory". They are Vayu, Pitta and Kapha.

Doctors of outstanding calibre were Atreya (1st doctor) Charak (Physician) and Susruta (Surgeon).

Then the period of "Chinese medicine" and its orgin dates back to 2700. Based on the traditional Chinese system of treatment. chinese are pioneers of Immunization.

In 2000 BC Egyptian medicine devloped on the Bank of river Nile, concept of Egyptian medicine was the diseases are due to absorption of Harmful substances from intenstine. Treatment was blood letting. cathaties, enema and wide range of drugs.

Thereafter the Greek medicine which traces back to 1200 BC " Aesculapius" Is the early leader of the Greak medicine. His daughter Hygiea was worshipped as goddessn of health. Greek people were great believers in the theory of Humours - blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. Hippocrate was a shrewed clinician of Greek Medicine. His femous oath the Hippocratic oath is the basis of medical ethic even today. we owe an enormous debt to Greeks for separating medicine from magic and raising it to a status of science. The glory of Greek faded away but not their contributions to science and arts.

When the great days of the Greek ended, the center of ciziliration shifted to Rome. The Romans borrowd their medicine largely from the Greeks when they had conquered and added littliu to the medicine.

The medical men of outstanding calibres were celsus (25 BC to 50 AD) who gave the cardinal feature of Inflammation (Callor, dolar, rubor and tumer) and Gallen (131 - 200 AD) who observed the diseases are due to three factors :

- a) Predisposing factors
- b) Exciting factors and
- c) Environmental factors

Then comes mediaeval period (600- 1400 AD). It is called the darkage of medicine. The lack of scientific knowledge promoted superstition in medicine. The charge of treatment was taken over by saints and sages.

In the middest Arab stole a march over rest of the civilization. They translated the work of Hippocrates and Galen and preserved much of Greeco- Roman Wisdom.

Contribution of Arab is more to the knoweldge of pharmacology. Durgs, Alcohol, Syrup are the terms still use today. When muslim invaded India they came with Greeco-Arabian system which is popularly known as "Unani system of medicie".

Then the period of Revival of medicine came. Medicine which was long in the knowledge of superstition and speculation began to emerge as a true science as new discoveries were made on human knowledge advanced.

**Following genius took birth :**

- a) Fracastorius (1483 - 1553) enunciated the theory of contagina "Falls of epidemiology".
- b) Paracelsus (1490 - 1541) who publicly burn the works of Gallen and attacked the superstition and dogma to medicine.
- c) Vasalius (1514 - 1590) revived surgery and became the father of modern surgey.

17th century was full of exciting discoveries in medicine.

- a) William Harvery (1578 - 1657) discovered circulation of blood.
- b) Leewenhock (1632 - 1723) a Dutch merchant made microscope
- c) John Hunter (1728 - 1798) laid the foundation of surgical pathology.
- d) Edward Jenur (1796) discovered prevention of small pox.
- e) DURING THIS PERIOD HAHNEMANN APPEARED IN 1755 AND DISCOVERED HOMOEOPATHY IN 1796.

Let us have a glimpse to the contemporary political situation of the place Germany where Homoeopathy had its birth in the middle of eighteenth century and the global political situation too.

Germany was consisted of 30 separate territories, the king of Austria and Prusia, the elector of Hanover and sazony, 94 spiritual lay princes, 103 counts, 40 prelates 53 free towns.

The most noteworthy feature of the period i.e. 1755 the year of Samuel Hahnemann's birth was that the whole Germany was utter and complete exhaustion as a result of 30 year war, a war of religion of previous century. The commerce, art, literature, education in short everything which incites pride and herriage disappeared. **Never was a country so scouraged or so devastated.**

The background of Samuel Hahnemann the founder of Homeopathy has been said to be a battle ground of wars and rumours of wars.

- a) Seven year war (1756-1763)
- b) The war of Baverian succession (1777)
- c) His second stay at Leipzig is the year of French Revolution.
- d) In his third stay at Leipzig, nepoleon's soldiers were actually fortifying the town. During that time Dutch, Spanish and Portugues empire was broken due to internalrevolution and external conquest.

America was fighting for independence.

Canada was under British dominion.

India was under British trading company. There were some independent, ambitious, powerful princes like Tipu Sultan of Mysore and Maratha chief were in India.

Let us unfurl the multidimensioned talents of the precocious and gifted Germany boy. He was an intelligent and voracious reader acquired proficiency in many languages and quickly grasped all the medical knowledge available to his time and got his Doctorate degree.

During his life time he was engaged in translation from 1748-1806 being disgusted with prevailing system of treatment. He has translated fourteen books with three major materia medica. total number of pages translated will be 6000 pages.

He was engaged in the field of Research in Chemistry from 1784 to 1789 and have fourteen papers at his credit.

In the field of medicine he has 36 publications which are between 1782 to 1831 and comprising of 6213 pages. By above number of original publications he could able to build of a system of medicine which is called "**Homeopathy**".

The great servant of medicine had a retched and measurable family life and was moved from place to place being humiliated, harshed and frusted but in long run he has given birth to a science which has been mitigating and will be mitigating the sufferings of milions of sufferers.

Hahnemann died on the 2nd July, 1843 at the age of 88 years, 2 months and 22 days. Physicist, 1. Galvani, G. Volta, Chemist Laboister, Priestley and Botanist Linne were the outstanding contemporary scientist in their fields of Hahnemann.

We visualise following outstanding physician/surgeons of that time too.

- a) Mackel who discovered mackel's diverticulum
- b) Scarpa who discovered scarpal triangle
- c) Brodie who discovered Brodie's abscess
- d) Dupuytren who discovered dupuytren's contracture
- e) Pott who discovered Pott's disease.
- f) Haberdon who discovered Haberdon's nodule
- g) Thomas addision who discovered Addison's disease
- h) Thomas Hodgkin who discovered
- i) Wolff who was a great embryologist
- j) Spallangani was a great physiologist
- k) Frank was a great Hygienist.

That Homoeopathic system of treatment which was enunciated by Hahnemann is being given patronage by our India Government by opening a separate deptt. Attempts have been made to popularise the

system by opening colleges to impart training, dispensaries to render medical services and research council to carry on research to improve the standard of treatment. But unfortunate is that financial outlay is so meagre it is impossible to carry on the research in a large scale to discover any new thing transibly and provide uniform standard of education.

We are confident the present popular government will give more stress in this system of treatment thereby poorer section of people will be able to reach the medical facilities and the goal to achieve the "Health for all" will be feasible.