EDITORIAL FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER 2006

Thinking of post-graduate studies!

After one passes final BHMS exams, there are many options for Homoeopathic doctors if they sincerely want to study Homoeopathy and sharpen their skills in one of the best therapeutics of the world.

I will be discussing every option with its pros and cons.

1) The International Academy of Classical Homoeopathy, Greece

This academy is one of those institutions of the world that is exclusively dedicated to classical homoeopathy. In this academy, the teachings are based not on theoretical assumptions but on solid fundamentals that were laid down by Dr Samuel Hahnemann, Dr Kent, Dr Hering, etc.

There are various ways in which one can participate in this Academy as a post-graduate student. The first is - open teaching session of one week duration usually between the months of June and July. I strongly recommend this course for beginners for various reasons such as —

- a) The course is short, i.e. one week only.
- b) It is not expensive (350 Euros for one week). The price is nothing as compared to other seminars where one pays 350 Euros for a weekend seminar.

What does one learn in the course?

One learns history of Homoeopathy and its place in modern medicine, explanations of the main aphorisms in the Organon, understanding human being in its structure and totality, practical applications of Homoeopathy on live cases with their follow-ups for 3 – 4 years, the best part of the course is learning Materia Medica with its differential diagnosis from a master teacher who is the only teacher I know who can remember the most important clinical indications of more than 500 remedies.

The other thing worth learning is to understand the Law of Cure, the meaning of symptoms, the suppression of symptoms in disease, case taking techniques with a lot of importance on posology, etc.

For further information regarding the courses one can contact myself on my e-mail – hhc@vsnl.com or Dr. Hiralal Agarwal whose telephone number is -+912172311312 or one can directly visit the website of the Academy – www.vithoulkas.com

The only disadvantage of this course is the money one requires to travel to Greece, but Dr Vithoulkas is very generous and he helps many poor students in giving concession for the fees. I have personally, so far, taken four courses and have not regretted.

 Dr M L Dhawale Institute of Post Graduate Studies awarding MD (Hom), Palghar (Maharashtra)

This institute has a lovely hospital just a few kilometers away from Mumbai at Palghar, Thane (dist). This is the only hospital that I know where patients are admitted and treated according the principle of Homoeopathy in various acute and chronic conditions in contrast to other Homoeopathic hospitals where there are no patients (patients are purchased for one day when the inspection of the institute takes place), or, if there are patients, they are being treated allopathically. The teaching faculty headed by Dr Kumar Dhawale, Dr Tiwari and many other dedicated souls is the pillar of guidance and support to the upcoming students. The out-patients department is just fabulous where one gets to see patients suffering from various illnesses and how systematically they are examined, analyzed and treated. There is a lot of personal rapport between student and teacher, there is no politics and money spinning tactics as is seen in other Homoeopathic institutes. If I had to do my MD all over again, I would definitely join this institute.

3) Dr Father Muller Institute, Mangalore

I have never seen or visited this institute but I have heard from various students who have passed out from this institute that this institute offers excellent education to post-graduate students and has a good hospital for giving practical education to students. The environment is very friendly and students who live in South India can take advantage of this institute.

There may be many institutes that offer MD courses in Homoeopathy but before one joins, one must look for –

- a) The Homoeopathic Hospital that is attached to the institute and whether people do get admitted or it is lying empty, whether allopathic drugs are used, what is the attendance in the out-patients department of the hospital.
- b) Who are the lecturers and what type of lectures are being taken, whether the teacher is able to teach his subject properly or not, whether there are teachers in the teaching faculty who are having more than 25 years of teaching experience.
- c) Whether students who have passed from that institute have genuinely learned something more than BHMS.

My sincere advice to all students is to not to do MD just for the heck of it or to satisfy one's ego. MD should be done with a lot of dedication, sincerity and honesty. I have done it keeping the same spirit and I wish all the students to follow my example.