

On Homœopathic Education

George Dimitriadis ¹

Of great concern to our homœopathic science is the absence of educational institutions with funded positions for continuing research & education. We are still a long way from enjoying the benefits of a profession which derive from dedicated workers within our profession being afforded the time to focus primarily on gathering and disseminating information from primary sources, from both within & without our own homœopathic school, in an ordered and methodical manner, pooled together to form a readily accessible database from which our science may be precisely defined, carefully extended, and continually refined.

One such useful position, would be as “Reader in Homœopathy” wherein our source literature is carefully examined, from our very beginnings (in original language), and reported to an eager profession. Just as we find readers in anatomy, physiology, etc., so we would also benefit from having a number of such *readers* in Homœopathy, each perhaps with a specific focus – on history, materia medica, repertory, therapeutics & clinical reports, etc., and even on different time periods, e.g. 1790-1810, 1811-1831, 1832-1843, 1844-1864, and so on.

There exist many thousands of pages (of books and periodicals) waiting to be examined, studied, and discussed. Therein we find much which will amaze, astonish, and excite, and which provide a glimpse of the mindset of our predecessors, those both familiar and unknown, of their discussions, their reasonings and interpretations, clinical approach, and their successes & failures. From reading this material we can form a reasonable judgment as to our own approach towards continued learning, both theoretical, and clinical. Indeed, I am now of the firm view that much of the misteachings and consequent mis-prescribing evident within our profession will be obviated through the study of these original sources.

As it presently stands, it falls to the homœopathic practitioner to find the time outside their clinical practise (and family life) for further research, and this time-consuming and painstaking work is not an easy course to pursue. How much easier is it for those with funded positions within the scientific and medical communities, as well as those journalists paid to repeat these same views, to generate a flurry of attacks against Homœopathy without the need (without even a single thought) of undertaking any careful examination of fact. Any answers to such unfounded attacks must be volunteered by the already time-scant homœopath.

This, unfortunately, is the academic state of our profession, which, in itself, is perhaps understandably viewed with derision by those who have themselves undertaken (more or less) rigorous and extensive studies in their respective fields, and who then belong to a structured professional body whose approach to education (with all its faults and shortfalls) is both consistent and methodical, and which can further offer various paid positions of higher education, research, and advancement.

Homœopathy has no such institution with the necessary funding. But there is nevertheless a need for a concerted effort towards a unitary approach to proper homœopathic education, without which our educational advancement is greatly inhibited, and driven only by the (more or less) isolated efforts of largely unconnected individuals.

A proposal to try and remedy this situation has already been initiated by George Vithoukas, for a central ‘Hahnemannian homœopathic’ organisation which can implement and oversee a programme of education and research, and with the resources to fund various research and literature projects, including the scanning of relatively inaccessible books and periodicals, especially those of old, for the sake of their ready access by the profession. Such central body, *sponsored by the profession*, and *for the profession*, may be the beginning of a whole new co-ordinated effort in our continued growth.

Would not this prospect of providing this much needed support to our colleagues provide sufficient stimulus to extirpate any inertia, to trigger an avalanche of excitement towards their pursuit of excellence in research? Would not any obstacles be overcome towards this higher aim?

Time will tell.

¹ Correspondence: Hahnemann Institute Sydney, PO Box 3622, Parramatta NSW 2134, Australia; inquiries@www.hahnemanninstitute.com.