

II - Medicine and homoeopathy confronted with their choices and duties...

If it is meant to expound to the general public and to the medical profession *Pages choisies d'Homéopathie et l'esquisse d'une bibliographie méthodique de la Doctrine*¹ in a collection entitled *Documents authentiques sur une doctrine mystérieuse*, the title of the book published in 1947 by Professor M. Lavarenne, a professor at the Faculty of Arts at Clermont Ferrand who was awarded the silver-gilt medal by the Faculty of Medicine, is already significant...

It says a great deal about what was already problematic to the extent of causing dissension and chaos even in the highest levels of government...

This last text of the two previous parts that brought back to mind² the proceedings instituted by opponents of homoeopathy in 1858 and the debate about it before the *Assemblée nationale* and then before the *Sénat* can only make one wonder, as the answer of the *Conseil d'Etat* mentioned here also does.

The events which, from an ordinary problem of legacy contested by certain legatees, resulted in *Saint-Jacques* Hospital being given 'official approval' - and being consequently authorised to receive what had been given to it - are propaedeutic as regards what is unpredictable and may change the course of things...

What happened afterwards illustrated the impossibility of foreseeing anything. 'If you provoke such fear and enmity, then you must already be very strong', expressed aggressively by one of the opponents from the *Association des médecins de France*, said a great deal about the climate already surrounding homoeopathy and the anger that it aroused given what it carried in spite of itself.

The fact that the government that 'was so good at scrutinising public opinion before acting, had already chosen to dispense with the opinions of the Faculty towards the end of its reign' had not tolerated its interference - which 'produced exactly the opposite of the expected effect' - shows that one cannot take anything for granted.

In fact, contrary to all expectations, the reaction of the *Conseil d'Etat*, hurt and 'informed about the hidden side of the affair', considering the 'last-minute report that had been imposed on it by a politico-medical manoeuvre to be inadmissible', was finally in opposition to what had been anticipated.

In order to avoid all 'political manoeuvre' against the minister's personal staff, 'what concerned the homoeopathic society was removed' but *Saint-Jacques* Hospital was retained and given 'official approval'... 'The scientific question had become less important than the charity question'.

What an odd conclusion... Transmitting, as in the past, the 'popular medicine' aspect that it might represent, it did not get rid of homoeopathy since the access to it of the very poor was maintained and it was accepted but, at the same time, it did not recognise that it had the 'scientific' value demanded by the supporters of the Faculty of Medicine.

What a surprising repetition...

¹ Editions Magnard, 107 Bd. Raspail, Paris 6.

² - in a chapter entitled, *Polémiques et controverses* from a book by Charles Janot entitled, *Histoire de l'homéopathie française*, 1936, 70 rue Boucicaut, Fontenay-aux-Roses.

It can only remind one of the conflict that already existed at the time of Hahnemann and still remains at the present time, except that the scientific advance now leads to demand more obvious proofs, controlled and imposed, and if one **only** refers to the results of double-blind tests, a mistake which the purists of hard-line 'science' and the mechanistic paradigm will make will always be used against homoeopathy.

One has to recognise that, in spite of many clinical and experimental results, homoeopaths will always be confronted with arguments that will be all the more ferocious as they rely on a different pattern and their approach to illness and to the patient is specific and will therefore be rejected for various reasons by the supporters of the current way of thinking.

'There is none so deaf as those who will not hear'. The solution adopted at the present time is like that recounted in the pieces of writing proposed here... And yet, even if it seems that 'the die is cast', foretelling the desired death of homoeopathy, let us keep in mind that there may also be other reversals or developments... The living Body has unpredictable resources which defy all anticipation... Let us hope that, once again, the wind will turn in favour of the Hahnemannian discipline and it will be able to maintain its contribution as regards care as well as the knowledge of human beings in the face of illness...³

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³ Translated by Pascale Tempka