

IN OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL ALLOPATHIC LEGISLATION

Presented before Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in opposition to Owen and other bills.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee:

I deem it fitting at the outset, without any attempt at personal laudation, to make known to you who I am, whence I came, and whom I have the honor to represent. I am a Kentuckian by birth, a Christian by faith, a Homœopath by practice, and a Missourian by adoption, and in coming from Missouri I need only to remind you that it is that great State made famous by the Ozark Mountains and the mule; the Ozarks are in the southern part of the State—I hail from the western part. Furthermore, that you may be dissuaded from any suspicion that the opponents of certain attempted medical legislation are confined altogether to the disgruntled and non-representative class, I beg to mention that I hold a diploma from a recognized medical college and the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine from two other institutions—the Hahnemann Medical College, of Chicago, and the Kansas City University. I am ex-president of the Missouri Institute of Homœopathy and the present president of the Missouri Valley Homœopathic Medical Association, an organization which comprises six States. Furthermore, I am

Reprinted from the *MEDICAL CENTURY*, August, 1910.

Registrar of the Hahnemannian Medical College, of Kansas City, and hold in that institution the professorship of the Institutes of Medicine and Materia Medica. It is my honor, then, to represent the faculty of the Hahnemann Medical College, of Kansas City, comprising about forty professors and lecturers, and also to the homœopathic physicians and their patrons of Missouri and Kansas. Furthermore, I represent the Voters and Taxpayers' Association of Missouri, an organization maintained for the purpose of preventing unjust medical legislation in that State, and last, but by no means least, the National League for Medical Freedom, an organization composed of American citizens who, while their opinions may differ widely in matters of medical treatment are agreed upon the central idea of medical freedom. I have not come before you to clothe my school of medicine in attractive garb, for I believe it is well able to take care of itself at the bedside, but I would rather elicit your interest in the prevention of the well-defined purpose of the American Medical Association to clothe the young and hopeful body of Homœopathy in a shroud. I desire, in order to place this matter before you in most tangible form, to refer somewhat to medical history and to make known to you that Samuel Hahnemann, the originator of the homœopathic system of medicine, found it necessary, immediately after announcing that possibly he had discovered a definite principle in therapeutics, to combat the apparently "harmless" legislative efforts of those who differed from him, the result of which was that in Leipsig, and in other cities of Germany to which he was forced to retreat, laws were passed "in the interest of the public" for the purpose of preventing Doctor Hahnemann and his disciples from practicing the healing art, as they understood it, in these communities. The exact nature of this "harmless" legislation fathered by the allopathic school of medi-

cine was in effect that no physician should administer his own medicine at the bedside, but that he must write a prescription and submit it to the local pharmacist. The result of this "innocent" legislation which resulted in such vicious persecution was that Dr. Hahnemann was finally forced to leave Germany and to take refuge in Paris, France, where the profession, if not more scientific, was less active in matters political. At a little later period an epidemic of cholera was on in Leipsig. Patients were dying by the score and this man who had submitted to exile in the name of medical freedom expressed to those patients and to the few disciples whom he had left behind, the opinion that from the peculiar symptoms that characterized this particular epidemic, he believed that the remedies most apt to be homœopathic to those cases were Arsenic, Copper, and Veratrum album and, following this advice, the results of the treatment of these cases so vindicated his contentions, and the gratitude of the people of Leipsig was so great, that in memory of that scientific interpretation of that condition, there stands to-day in Leipsig a monument erected to the memory of Samuel Hahnemann, one of the few monuments to medical men throughout the world; and, in passing, I would call attention to the fact that in the city of Washington there is also a monument to this founder of the homœopathic school, placed here at an expense of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars by homœopathic physicians and their grateful patients throughout the United States.

It is easily possible that in those bills that were passed in Leipsig there was no direct reference made to Doctor Hahnemann and his school of medicine; but certainly without regard to any particular reference to him, the results proved the original intent of the bills. I have referred to this bit of medical history for

the purpose of, at least, reminding your honorable Committee that this present attempted legislation is not altogether a latter-day innovation of the allopathic school of medicine.

For the sake of brevity, permit me now to consider the more recent history of this allopathic school; and I would first call your attention to the fact that the American Medical Association, which was founded by Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago (a number of years after the establishment of the American Institute of Homœopathy), "for the purpose of advancing medical research," has been in more recent times converted by a coterie of political doctors into an organization whose purpose, without question now, is to establish a medical oligarchy in the United States. This policy has not sprung into existence in a day, but it has been brought about by slow gradations for the reason that the average allopathic physician would be actuated by fairer motives and it has taken much time and patience to persuade him to have a part in an effort to bring about a coalition of State and medicine; and in the second place, too abrupt procedure might have belied the contention of this coterie that all of the purposes of the American Medical Association are peculiarly angelic. If, then, I find it necessary to use homely and simple illustrations in dealing with this organization of purported "innocence," I must ask you to bear with me because of the necessity of approaching this politico-medical cherub on its own ground. Furthermore, in dealing with this problem, I wish, as far as possible, to confine myself to a blunt statement of facts, avoiding, as far as possible, any theories of my own or of others that might have a tendency to confuse you in your deliberation on the question now before you. And in certain comparisons that I shall make please understand that I have no intention of criticising the beliefs or non-beliefs of those to whom I may refer outside of the

medical profession; but rather to mention their organizations, the more clearly to illustrate by comparison the contentions that I shall present. I shall attempt to make clear to you by analogy if not by direct charge, that it is now the well-defined purpose of the American Medical Association and its satellites to monopolize the practice of the healing art wherever the influence of the American Medical Association is manifested; and to do this it becomes my painful duty to refer at the outset to Dr. J. N. McCormack, to whom, in the class room, I have referred as the political wet-nurse of the American Medical Association; but to whom, hereafter, I shall refer, and with profound respect, as the Napoleonic genius of State medicine. And I cannot do better than to quote Dr. McCormack himself, to prove that it is the purpose of the organization which he officially represents to eliminate at as early a period as possible all schools of practice except the one that he so ably represents. In Kansas City, where I have the pleasure to reside, Dr. McCormack, speaking before the local Allopathic Society, used these words: "It is a fact, gentlemen of the Jackson County Medical Society, that we have never fought the Homœopath on matters of medical principle; but rather have we fought him because he has come into the community and gotten the business; and my justification for this statement will be more evident to you when I remind you that when a Homœopath who has not proven aggressively competitive has cast his lot in your community, it was your wont to pronounce him a good fellow, and on his leaving it was your expression of regret that he had gone because it was evident to you that his presence in your community did not particularly interfere with your practice and yet, at the same time prevented the coming of more formidable competition." Then on the following night, in an address to the public delivered in the auditorium of the Central High

School of my city, Dr. McCormack used this language, directed to those laymen in his audience whom he judged were given to the employment of homœopathic, "sectarian" doctors: "If your doctor be a Homœopath, I would encourage you to advise him to come with us and let us all be doctors," (the inference being that the condition necessary for the Homœopath to become a doctor was to join the American Medical Association, and that his being already in the American Medical Association signified that he was a doctor without any change of base or conviction); then he added, "Your homœopathic doctor is a Homœopath for the same reason that I am a Presbyterian—he was born that way." And yet he failed to mention that while he had been born a Presbyterian, he might also have been born an allopath." I submit, then, gentlemen of the Committee, that if according to Dr. McCormack's statement before the Medical Society on the previous night, that the fight was made because we "got the business," that we are justified in standing by our medical birth and blood. At this open meeting it was the evident purpose of Dr. McCormack to establish a medical trust in my city, because he advised, in all earnestness, that those who were present at that time join with the Jackson County Medical Society in its policy (that thus far had not been evident) in the prevention of disease in that community; but the positive interpretation that came to me was that by the union of the laity and all allopaths there represented, that the latter might get more of the business. Now I am prompted in arriving at this conclusion by the fact that the allopathic profession and the American Medical Association has been notoriously guilty of disregarding the prevention of disease when such procedure showed a tendency to contradict preconceived medical opinions with which they were primarily and fundamentally tinctured; and I believe that I will be borne out in this state-

ment by the history of compulsory vaccination and its relationship to the allopathic school of medicine; for it is evident to me that any plan for the prevention of disease that does not contain a specification for medication is of no interest to the allopathic school, and that we are, therefore, forced to the conclusion that the prevention of disease in its truest and best sense finds safer lodgment in any other hands than those of the medical profession. I need only to call your attention to the fact that at first, vaccination as a preventive measure was "recommended" to the people, and that later, when the people seemed to have lost what faith they may have had in its efficiency, the cherubic organizations of the allopathic school stealthily approached the various State Legislatures and burdened the people of the several States with enactments fostering the compulsion of this peculiar practice. In my own city when the public schools opened in the fall of 1908 for the purpose of disseminating to the childhood of that community what of education each was able to accept, an officious city physician very bluntly announced that he would immediately set about to vaccinate every child in that city regardless of their parents, religious opinions, medical convictions, or previous condition of servitude. It was my pleasure as well as my duty to announce in the next issue of the same papers that the city physician would not vaccinate any child in that community without the full written consent of that child's parent or parents. Before it was possible for me to secure an injunction, the said medical guardian of the public health had effected the vaccination of several children, one of whom promptly died and another suffered the amputation of his arm, after which my injunction became unnecessary and no reference has been made since that time to vaccination by compulsion in Kansas City. I might add that neither has there been any epi-

demic of small-pox nor any condition simulating it, ad interim.

The Health Board of Kansas City at that time was composed of laymen who preformed the serious responsibility of the heavy standing around, while the city physician conducted the office according to his preconceived medical notions and with the approval of the aforesaid Board of Health. A few weeks later, at Sedalia, Mo., an allopathic physician who was a member of the Board of Education caused to be issued by that Board of Education an order that no child in Sedalia would be permitted to enter the public school and be educated without first being officially vaccinated. The homœopathic physician of that city, Dr. H. L. Barnum, who was city physician, was forced to secure an injunction, and in the trial by the lower court, Dr. Barnum was sustained in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, to the effect that "a healthy child is not a menace to the community." This allopathic member of the Board of Education immediately appealed the case to the Supreme Court of Missouri, and the case has not, at this time, been decided.

I submit, therefore, gentlemen of the Committee, that to relegate the prevention of disease to the medical profession would be a serious error and for the reasons and illustrations before given. Of necessity I am forced to use illustrations gleaned from my own community and yet I am free to state that those same conditions exist in practically every city of the United States. Before going further I desire to call attention here, since it naturally follows, to what I consider the dangerous and alarming feature of the MANN bill, H. R. 24875. I quote from the bill, page 2, line 1, "In addition to the laboratory investigations now authorized by law, special investigations into the prevalence of tuberculosis, typhoid fever, rabies, leprosy, and other diseases affecting man, the conditions in-

fluencing their propagation and spread and methods necessary for their prevention and suppression. The investigation of rabies shall include the preparation *and use* of the virus or other substance made in the hygienic laboratory for its prevention in those exposed." I submit, gentlemen, that if the power conveyed by this clause that I quoted should be extended to any school of medicine or to any doctor of medicine regardless of school, that it would be the most dangerous sentence that has ever gone out from these halls under governmental stamp. For it is very evident to me that if "the preparation and use of the virus or other substance" shall be "used upon those exposed" that it could easily be interpreted to mean compulsory vaccination with whatever vaccine the officially stamped doctor might see fit to use upon an unwilling public, and, furthermore, since the allopathic school, guided by the firm but affectionate hand of the American Medical Association is the only school of practice that organically takes cognizance of serum therapy, there would be some danger of partiality for that school should this bill become a law. When compulsory vaccination was forced to give way in Kansas City, it was then that the city physician became deeply interested in the medical inspection by the allopathic profession of the school children of that community, and an ordinance was passed giving to the city physician and his selected aids the privilege of inspecting all the children of all the schools of that city. It was announced at the outset that there would be no attempt made at the treatment of these children; but that if found defective they would promptly be referred to their family physician. Several of them have been referred to me, and I was seriously advised, on a card provided for that purpose, (as I had been previously advised by the children's mothers) that these children were suffering from certain conditions that were supposed to have been de-

tected by the fledging doctor, all of it an apparently harmless proceeding, I grant you, but yet on the reverse side of this card these questions were asked: "Have you examined the patient hereon named? Have you found the condition as specified? *What treatment have you advised or tried?*" The significance of which is that, while no attempt is made to prescribe for those patients in the school, that it is the positive purpose to determine whether the family physician has prescribed for that patient so as to meet the approval of the city physician. Thus it seems clear that the satellites of the American Medical Association are not to be trusted with even the passing inspection of American childhood, and I would go further and have this to include doctors of medicine regardless of schools.

Again, in my city, possibly the majority of the people have been advised by the physicians of that city that if they should drink the water from the Missouri river (that being the source of our water supply) without distillation or filtration that they are liable to maladies that once contracted, the doctor might not be able to cure; and yet unbiased examination of our city water for several years past, by men who are not in the active practice of medicine, has revealed that the water of the Missouri river at Kansas City is as pure and potable as it is possible for any water to be. Needless to say that a city whose doctors have given out the impression that the city water is not fit to drink, is thus far handicapped in its outreachings for additional citizens.

Relative to the attempted medical legislation with which you have immediate concern, I desire to present to you a few facts bearing upon a statement that I previously made, that it is the well-defined purpose of the American Medical Association not to prevent disease but rather to prevent certain doctors from attempting to cure disease. Then first let me cite to you the fact that one month ago two recent graduates from

the Hahnemann Medical College in Kansas City wrote the secretary of the State Examining Board of Illinois, Dr. Egan, for an application blank, it being their desire to appear before that board with the purpose of submitting to its examination and ultimately practicing medicine in the State of Illinois. Dr. Egan's reply to them was that since it was his opinion that the Hahnemann Medical College, of Kansas City, was not in good standing with the Board of Examiners of its own State (which, let me add, is dominated by the allopathic school) that they would not be permitted to go before the Illinois Board for examination. The college successfully proved to Dr. Egan that it was in good standing with its own State board and, furthermore, that it was in Class B of the American Medical Association's list of colleges. Dr. Egan's reply was, "If you will send me official data showing that you are in Class B with the American Medical Association, your students will be permitted to apply for examination before this board. Imagine, if you can, gentlemen of the Cominttee, a young clergyman of the religious faith of Dr. McCormack desiring to go into the State of Illinois to preach the gospel of the lowly Nazazene and of being informed by a clergyman of another faith that he would be permitted to apply for examination provided he could show that the Theological Seminary from which he graduated was in good standing with the Archbishop of Podunk.

These boards of health or examining boards, with the exception of two or three States, are absolutely under the control of the allopathic profession and the American Medical Association, and if Congress will grant to us a little longer period of life by refusing to pass legislation that is prompted by the American Medical Association we hope to eliminate this evident injustice by praying to the Legislatures of the several States to give us the separate boards of

examiners to which we believe we are entitled, and once we have accomplished this purpose, we shall offset the cunning claim of the American Medical Association that this new legislation it now seeks is fostered by a desire to adjust the State Boards of Health to each other; and we will do it by resorting to reciprocity of registration, between the homœopathic boards.

Again, it is contended in this particular relationship that "the State Boards of Examiners dominated by the American Medical Association have no intention of inflicting hardships upon the homœopathic applicants," and yet in the early part of this year, when the examining board of South Dakota, met for the examination of prospective practitioners in that State, the Homœopaths were asked to stand up and be identified; five of the applicants stood up and when the returns from this examination came in, the five Homœopaths who had stood up had been found wanting, according to the interpretation of the American Medical Association, and they were denied licenses to practice in that State and one of the five returned to Missouri, where he had a certificate to practice, leaving the satisfactory practice that he had builded in South Dakota pending his examination; and it becomes necessary now through the unmistakable fairness and angelic purposes of the American Medical Association that he start his professional life anew in another State.

Again, it has been the good fortune of the homœopathic school to obtain recognition in several State universities, three of which I shall mention: Minnesota, Missouri and Iowa. I desire to quote a letter received from Dr. William E. Leonard, of Minneapolis, Minn., which says: "You may put me down as a senior in the American Institute of Homœopathy," (which means that he has been a constant member of that national body for more than twenty-years), "or as ex-professor of *Materia Medica* in the

University of Minnesota, I having been ousted, after nineteen years of service, together with the whole homœopathic faculty." Thanks to the American Medical Association.

Second, I mention the University of Missouri, to which we were voted by the State Legislature several years ago, a teaching faculty on Homœopathy. And yet we have not been able, so far, thanks to the "innocent" aggressiveness of the allopathic school, to utilize the opportunity afforded us by that Legislature.

Thirdly, the University of Iowa, where we have had for a number of years a full corps of teachers of homœopathic medicine, which is destined to go the way of the Minnesota faculty unless the peculiarly innocent and political relationships of the American Medical Association can be, in some way, subverted.

Again, a few years ago, in Missouri, we were voted by the State Legislature the Hospital for the Insane, No. 1, located at Fulton. The records show, as the result of the homœopathic care and management of the institution, the best record of cures and the most satisfactory management that any State asylum for the insane in Missouri has ever known. In the face of this record, an allopathic doctor who formerly felt that he graced the halls of Congress was elected to the Governorship of that State, and being an allopathic doctor first and a Governor second he, without cause, ousted the Homœopaths from the asylum referred to and we have not had a similar recognition since that time.

Finally, gentlemen, I have not come to plead with you for any special privileges in the name of the homœopathic school of medicine, since that school is willing and has ever shown a readiness to test its merits at the bedside; and should I or any other Homœopath or body of Homœopaths ever approach this body in search of legislation favoring the homœopathic school, let me, as an authority in that school, forewarn

you that it will be a positive acknowledgment that that school has lost its last argument in therapeutics. I do not ask for anything more than the continuation of our rights to test the merits of our school by clinical application, and certainly I do not ask you to abridge the rights of those who differ from me in practice; because in all earnestness I want to assure you that if the practitioners of any other plan of treatment can prove the superiority of their contention over my own, I want to know it and you are entitled to know it.