

THE THIRD BLACKIE MEMORIAL LECTURE
'Dr. Margery Blackie: The Dedicated Teacher'
by
Dr. R.A.F. Jack, MB, ChB, MRCGP, FBSMDH, FFHom.
held in the gracious presence of
Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester
at the
Chelsea Physic Garden, Royal Hospital, London, SW3
On
Tuesday, 2nd June, 1987.

Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure and privilege to be invited to give this third Blackie Memorial lecture, before such an audience, and in memory of such a remarkable and unique lady. I have entitled the lecture "Margery Blackie: The Dedicated Teacher", and I shall refer to her as Margery, since that was how she asked me to address her.

She founded the Blackie Foundation Trust to promote the furtherance of her two interests; the teaching of Homeopathy, and research to prove its efficacy. It is difficult to treat these two aspects of her work separately, since they became so intertwined.

I cannot hope to emulate the erudition of Dr. Robin Pinsent, who gave the first lecture, which he devoted mainly to research; nor can I match the narrative skills of Miss Constance Babington Smith who gave the second lecture, which, in conjunction with her biography of Margery, entitled "Champion of Homeopathy", provides a full and fascinating account of Margery's personality and life.

There have always been a few far-sighted homeopathic doctors who accepted the need for research to validate the efficacy of Homeopathy, and the two standard methods used were either studies in the laboratory, or clinical trials among patients. In the latter case the criterion of proof was simple (and depended on anecdotal accounts of successful treatment). The patient was ill, was administered a homeopathic medicine, and got better quicker than was expected. What more in the way of proof was required, or could be demanded? Post hoc ergo propter hoc. But is that a safe assumption? Can it be deduced that because cure followed homeopathic treatment, it was entirely due to the homeopathic medicine?

Let me illustrate with a recent case history. A professional middle-aged man consulted me some time ago complaining of sharp stabbing chest pains that woke him at about 3 a.m. each morning, and were not related to his breathing, or position, or movement. He had become totally exhausted, and felt the cold unduly. After taking further details, and a full medical examination, which was unremarkable, I confidently prescribed Kali Carb., as his cluster of symptoms so closely matched those produced by subtoxic doses of Kali Carb. (potassium carbonate). You can imagine my sense of satisfaction when he returned a fortnight later to tell me that all his symptoms disappeared the morning after his consultation with me. I mentally scored up another success for Homeopathy, and then asked him whether there had been any other factor in his circumstances that could possibly account for this dramatic improvement. "Well yes", he replied slowly. "I confess I should have told you at the first consultation, but I was too embarrassed. The Value Added Tax Inspectors raided my house about six months ago, took all my business documents and accounts books, and started an in-depth investigation of my VAT liabilities and payments. It has been a most harrowing time since, and a tremendous strain, and it really got me down. The morning after I came to see you, I received a letter from the Inspectors informing me that they had closed their enquiry and were not taking any further action!" In all honesty, I think it was the relief from the threat of prosecution, rather than my medicine that removed his symptoms. This is why anecdotal accounts of success can be suspect. There may be many other factors that influence the recovery, such as the sympathetic attitude of the doctor who is prepared to listen whilst the patient unburdens his problems to someone whom

he feels he can confide in, and who can help. Some doctors admitted that Margery treated her patients very successfully, but attributed the success to her personality and charm, and not to the homeopathic medicines she prescribed.

Another important factor that influences recovery is the placebo response, and well over 30% of us are placebo reactors, and respond to inert or dummy tablets. It is hard to believe that this is true, but it has been established beyond any shadow of doubt.⁽¹⁾ If the patient believes that the treatment is going to help him, then there is a one-in-three chance that it will, whatever the treatment. Understandably our allopathic colleagues have insisted for years that we apply the same stringent methods of assessing our homeopathic medicines that they do in testing theirs. This involves designing and executing trials that eliminate all the variable personal factors and external influences, so that any improvement in the patient can only be due to the medicine. Hence the need for double blind trials. Unfortunately, until about ten years ago, homeopathic doctors did not accept this need, and were still content to collect case histories where cure followed homeopathic treatment, erroneously deducing that that was unassailable proof of efficacy. Even today some homeopathic doctors maintain this belief.

Margery was among the first to accept the inadequacy of the old traditional method, and saw the need to employ the modern methods of research. It was confirmed to her in the following way - in 1973 Sir John Richardson was president of the Council for Post Graduate Medical Education in England and Wales. This Council has responsibility for dispensing the funds that the Government has made available for the post graduate medical training of doctors. Any educational course funded in this way is said to have Section 63 approval. All the courses Margery had been organising had been financed mainly from her Trust, and Section 63 funding had been consistently denied her. The Faculty of Homeopathy applied to Sir John for a remit from these funds, and arranged a meeting with him. This took place on the 1st November, 1973, and Margery, Dr. Charles Kennedy (then President), and I attended and presented our case. Sir John received us courteously but explained that his Council could not justify releasing funds for the teaching of Homeopathy until it was satisfied that there was firm clinical evidence of the efficacy of Homeopathy. He invited us to produce such evidence. Once again we adopted the old traditional approach to research and set about collecting case histories of patients who had responded to certain particular remedies; the two selected were Arsenicum Album and Phosphorus. We did this, and over a year later, in February 1975, presented them to a group of representatives of the Council for Post Graduate Medical Education. On this occasion Professor Sir Cyril Clarke was in the Chair, and with him were four eminent colleagues; Dr. Anita Davies joined our delegation. Margery said very little and prompted us to do most of the talking. Their attitude was very definite. They would not accept as evidence anecdotal accounts of success. The only evidence they would accept was that based on successful double blind trials. Their last words were "Go home and do your homework!"

Margery came away from this meeting convinced of the need to use her Trust for research, as much as for teaching Homeopathy. She began to realise that Homeopathy would never be accepted by orthodox medicine until sound research supported its claims. The need for research was paramount. Happily, since then four double blind trials have been conducted and reported in leading non-homeopathic journals. Dr. Gibson and his colleagues in Glasgow have conducted two such trials, to assess the benefits of Homeopathy in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Their results have been criticised on the grounds that an insufficient number of patients was involved. However, the recent successful hay fever trial that was reported in the Lancet last October is beyond such criticism. This was a randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial conducted in Glasgow by Dr. Taylor Reilly and his team. In this trial 144 people, suffering at the time from hay fever, were allocated into two groups by random choice. Both groups were given tablets that were identical in size, shape, colour and taste, but those in one group received grass pollens in the 30th potency, and those in the other, placebo. Each group was allowed to take

an antihistamine as an escape remedy, if they needed to. The tablets were all supplied in coded bottles so that neither the doctors who prescribed them, nor the patients who received them, nor the doctor who assessed the results, knew which patients had received active medication and which had received placebo. When the code was broken and the results analysed statistically it emerged that, and I quote from the Lancet - the homeopathically treated patients showed a significant reduction in patient and doctor assessed symptom scores", and needed only half as much antihistamines as in the placebo group.

Admittedly this is an isolated trial, but it is highly significant and very encouraging. It was what both Sir John and Sir Cyril had asked Margery and her colleagues to do, and, eleven years later, it has been done, partly funded by Margery's Trust. It is such a pity she never lived to see this justification of her commitment to research. This trial took four years of painstaking work to complete, and involved specialists in other disciplines besides Homeopathy. It has surprised some of our conventional colleagues, because the trial was designed and conducted using their protocols. To validate its results beyond dispute it must be repeated, preferably in a different part of the British Isles, by an independent team of investigators. This, in fact, is being arranged, but it all costs money, and, unlike research in conventional medicine, we do not get any financial support from the big drug houses.

At this time two seemingly trivial coincidences occurred which were going to have far reaching consequences. On the day of our second meeting with the Post Graduate Deans, Dr. Robin Pinsent also had to attend a meeting in London, in connection with the affairs of the Royal College of General Practitioners, of which he was the research adviser for twenty-five years. We not only travelled up to London together, but were surprised to find ourselves again together in the same compartment on the return journey from Euston. At that time I only knew him slightly, having once heard him lecture, and once met him at the Birmingham Research Unit of The Royal College of General Practitioners. Inevitably the subject of Homeopathy was brought up, and he remarked that the College was "interested in the growing edge of medicine". He urged me to organise some clinical trials in Homeopathy, and there and then drafted a simple protocol that could be used for such research in my NHS practice. A way now seemed to be emerging were we could, as advised by the Post Graduate Deans - "Go home and do our homework"! Margery was delighted at the prospect of starting trials and enthusiastically promised financial help.

The second apparently trivial coincidence was that, at about that time, two announcements appeared, side by side, on the same page of the Journal of The Royal College of General Practitioners. The first was the obituary of Dr. D.M. Cameron, who was not only a Foundation Member of The Royal College of General Practitioners but was, for ten years, the first Honorary Secretary of the South West England Faculty, until he was elected Provost. The obituary stated "One of his early interests was Homeopathy; this he studied in Glasgow under Dr. Henderson Patrick. When he came to Bristol he attended under Sir John Weir in London and attained the Diploma of The Faculty of Homeopathy. Locally he joined the staff of the homeopathic Hospital where he remained for many years." ⁽²⁾

In juxta-position to this notice was an announcement that "Professor J.M. Malins, Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Birmingham, has been appointed Post Graduate Dean in the Birmingham Medical School. Professor Malins has been an Associate of the College from the first months of its foundation."

⁽²⁾ I had known him from student days, when we played hockey together, and I had subsequently referred patients to him; I regarded him as a man with an open mind. It suddenly occurred to me that he might not be so opposed to the teaching of Homeopathy as were his fellow Deans in London, and might be sympathetic enough to allow us funds to hold a one-day symposium in the Midlands. I first approached Mr. Bernard Price, who was the Clinical Tutor and Senior Surgeon at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. He willingly agreed to co-operate and take the Chair for the opening session, provided Professor Malins gave his approval. Professor Malins not only concurred, but accepted an invitation to take the Chair for the second session in the morning, and again

after lunch, when Margery was due to speak. This was an unprecedented occasion, being the first symposium in the name of Homeopathy ever allowed under Section 63 provisions - that is, with funding from the Health Service, despite the negative attitude we had met among the Post Graduate Deans in London. Incidentally, until February of this year, the courses at The Royal London Homeopathic Hospital have been consistently denied this financial assistance.

I would now like you to listen to a short tape recording. This is an excerpt from the talk that Margery gave at the first Symposium held in Birmingham in November, 1975, when she was speaking on 40 years' experience with Homeopathy, and she is describing two cases of diphtheria which she treated successfully.

"I started in the pre-antibiotic era and in my first few years in practice, saw a number of cases of diphtheria. I always remember one incident. The florist already referred to had two small grandsons from Canada who were let a little house in the country and soon developed very sore throats, and I was asked to go and see them. When I entered the house, the very first thing I noticed was a certain smell, which I always associated with diphtheria. I doubt if many of you would know that smell, but to me it was something very real, and when I saw the two boys I was quite sure that that was what they had. So I took a throat swab from each and gave them Mecurious Cyanide. They had very offensive mouths with membrane all over their throats. there was profuse salivation and they were sweating, or else they were pulling up the bed clothes because they were so chilly, and they were shaky and very unwell and fitted well into the Mercury picture. The parents were not doing anything and the mother said she could nurse them and keep everyone away and take every precaution.

I dropped the swabs at the Pasteur Institute on my way into London and got a report next morning to say they were strongly positive. So what was I to do now? I then rang the local Medical Officer of Health - told him the story and asked if he would go and see them. He was not very cordial, but said he would go. He then rang me to say that he did not believe that these boys had ever had diphtheria. They were very well and full of beans and the swabs must have been muddled. I said he had better ring the Pasteur Institute and tell them that - but actually these swabs were still positive. And so he had to believe it, and he allowed them to stay on my Mercury preparation and the swabs were negative in 4 days.

I want to mention the other case. I went into the Children's Ward, of which I was in charge at the Homeopathic Hospital, and said to Sister - 'You have a case of diphtheria in the ward'. 'Oh no', she said, 'we have not a single child with any kind of throat'. So I did my round, and when we got the last bed, and this was the bed nearest the door incidentally (a child had been admitted the previous night with a horrible looking eruption round his chin and cheeks) with a smell I always noticed. I took a throat swab and found it positive. By luck I had been doing an early round and no other child had been near this one. I gave him a dose of Mercury and sent him off to a Fever Hospital, and I gave a dose of Diptherinum 200 to all round the Ward and no other child got the infection."

Margery was at her best at this Birmingham Symposium. She warmly thanked Professor Malins and Mr. Price for allowing the event to take place, and for attending, and publicly expressed the hope that the Symposium could be an annual event with Professor Malins' approval and support. Professor Malins afterwards light heartedly complained to me that she was trying to twist his arm, but her plea was unsuccessful. When I applied officially for Section 63 approval for funds for the next year's Symposium, Professor Malins replied:

"Dear Alastair - I am sorry to disappoint you but it is quite impossible to grant Section 63 approval for further Homeopathy meetings. The meeting which I attended I regarded as a special case, really for information to local doctors. The official policy is entirely opposed to such recognition, and it would not be possible for me, even if I wished it, to grant such recognition locally".

But it had fulfilled its purpose, and we are most grateful to him for having sanctioned this inaugural Symposium. By taking the Chair, he allowed his name to be printed on the programme, alongside Margery's name, and this must have helped in attracting the seventy-five doctors who attended. This was at a time when there was still open hostility to Homeopathy among general practitioners, as well as among hospital doctors.

Years later, when both he and Mr. Price, the Clinical Tutor, had retired, Margery asked me, on her behalf, to send them both a generous gift from her funds, which I was only too happy to do.

One of the first-fruits of this Symposium in Birmingham was Dr. Robin Pinsent, who had worked with Professor Malins, and who attended - to use his own words - "as an outside observer standing on the touchline". He came to follow-up tutorials, developing an increasing interest in the potential for research which Homeopathy seemed to offer. Before long he was going to Margery's courses in London, and subsequently passed the Membership examination.

From the time of our first encounter in the train, he had continued to press for properly designed studies and trials in the field of Homeopathy, and conceived the idea of forming the Midlands Homeopathy Research Group for this purpose. Margery was thrilled by the idea and undertook to finance its early work from her Trust.

This interdisciplinary group, whose terms of reference were - "to carry out rigorous objective examination of the principles and practice of Homeopathy", developed quickly, and it has now become The British Homeopathy Research Group. It has its own Journal, "Communications", edited by Dr. Anita Davies, which now circulates widely, both in this country and overseas.

Robin Pinsent was twice asked by the Editor of the Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners to write papers on the subject of Homeopathy, and later gave the first Blackie Memorial Lecture in Edinburgh on 30th September 1983. ⁽³⁾

The Group now includes expert Veterinary Surgeons, one of whom is Mr. C.E.I. Day, who is Secretary of the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons. He pioneered the establishment of this Association, which now has one hundred and forty members, and he and his colleagues are researching the benefits of Homeopathy in the treatment of small pets, and more importantly from a commercial point of view, in treating livestock. He is also President of the International Association of Veterinary Homeopathy which he helped to found in April 1986, and which already has 1,200 members. It is due to hold its first International congress in Oxford this September (1987).

An exciting development has recently been announced. A Research Council is being formed, which will include representatives from The Homeopathy Research Trust, The Kadleigh Trust, The Faculty of Homeopathy, The British Homeopathy Research Group, the Research Council for Complementary Medicine, together with some other people actively engaged in research. It will be "Chaired" by the Medical Research Director of The Blackie Foundation Trust, Dr. Ronald Davey, who is also Vice-Chairman of The Research Council for Complementary Medicine.

Margery was prudent in inviting Dr. Davey to leave his work in research in conventional drugs, and to utilise his expertise on research in Homeopathy. He has worked tirelessly in establishing contact with University Departments, and scientists in other disciplines. He has secured their co-operation in extensive research programmes such as the one in progress at Surrey University, and the one at the Microbiology Department of the Cardio Thoracic Institute in London. This sort of research is very costly; these two projects alone, if funds are available, will cost £66,000 over the next three years. The Blackie Foundation Trust is most grateful to everyone who has already donated generously to support this research and helped to secure the survival of the Trust itself. Further research is imperative, because the Committee for Review of Medicines has power

to rescind manufacturing licences for homeopathic medicines. This could happen soon after 1990 if research has not validated their efficacy and safety.

Leaving the subject of research for the moment, I would like to turn to the second purpose of Margery's Trust, which was to procure "the advancement of the study of, and education in, the science of Homeopathy". I have described the origin, in 1975, of the courses for teaching Homeopathy in the Midlands; I will now briefly review the history of the earlier more formal courses in London which succeeded the unbroken teaching of Homeopathy, since it was introduced into Britain by Dr. Quin in the middle of the last century, as a post-graduate study.

As early as 1961, fourteen years before the first Symposium in Birmingham, Dr. Marianne Harling and Dr. N.J. Pratt organised the first two-day post-graduate course on Homeopathy in London. Soon afterwards, Dr. D.M. Foubister became involved. These courses were held in Hahnemann House because the numbers were few: the atmosphere was homely and informal. This was, in part, due to the presence of Sir John Weir, who was Margery's predecessor, both as President of The Faculty and as Royal Physician. He sat on the front row and went out of his way to make both the audience and the speaker feel at ease. He helped me in this way some years earlier when I first had to give a lecture to The Faculty, which to me was an awesome occasion. He suggested before the lecture that I took a dose of Gelsemium. I did, and have never forgotten the calming effects of Gelsemium in alleviating apprehension before an impending ordeal. In fact it is time I took another dose!

This cordial atmosphere at the London courses was not just maintained when Margery was appointed the first Dean of The Faculty in 1964 - by her helpfulness she enhanced it; she fostered friendliness. At an age when most Deans would have retired, she belied her 67 years with a vivacity that inspired all who met her.

A few months later, in March 1965, I had my first introduction to her. She wrote to me: "I don't believe I have ever actually spoken to you though I have enjoyed listening to your papers. I am now writing to ask you for help". She then described the success of the first course she had organised and informed me of the next one she was arranging. She went on - "Do you know of any young doctors who would come? If you can even give me names I will write to them personally if you like", which was typical of her enthusiasm and energy. This was the beginning of an acquaintanceship which grew into a respect and admiration for her and finally ripened into a deep friendship that lasted until her death.

In her zeal to make the London courses a success she became, at times, rather imperious in her requests to speakers to come and often would not accept a refusal. If one declined her invitation to attend or to lecture, a second letter would arrive, more urgent than the first, so that ultimately one felt almost obliged to acquiesce. I once complained to her it was like "being commanded to the Palace!" Despite this she was most grateful for all the help she received and one appreciated her motives.

As a result, there was a rapid and sustained growth of these courses which was due, in the main, to her personality and her dogged determination that spared no effort on her part to make them a success. Her funding of these earlier courses was amazingly generous. She paid each doctor's travelling expenses and hotel accommodation and included a substantial allowance towards employing a locum, when this was necessary. She encouraged lecturers to come from the North by paying their air fares, and on at least one occasion financed a doctor to come from abroad. She wrote all her letters by hand, many bearing the heading "written in the car". Her personal letters attracted doctors to come to their first course and ensured that they returned to succeeding ones.

The Highlight of each course was the dinner she gave at the Bedford Hotel on the last evening. In the reply to the vote of thanks that was given to her she

would always conclude "and our next course will be on such and such a date and I will write to you all and hope that you will come".

The rapid growth of these London courses stimulated her to urge me to start similar ones in the Midlands and I have already described the apparent coincidences that triggered the launching of the first Birmingham Symposium. As Margery had hoped, the Symposium became an annual event and regular bi-monthly follow-up tutorials were commenced to further the training of doctors new to Homeopathy.

Now, in one sense, Margery and I had exchanged roles; she being the invited speaker, and not the course organiser. She spoke at the next three Annual Symposia, financing each one, as we had no other source of income, and it was in fact ten years before we were again allowed funding by the Post Graduate Dean. Her letters about these courses make touching reading. They reveal her deep sense of modesty and humility, which was not easily discerned beneath her forceful manner.

She wrote "I feel that the day was a great success in every way. Please let it be an annual event. I felt I ought to have done better, and will, if you ever ask me again." She explained that in the previous ten days she had had "the student day" (referring to the day course she had arranged for students from the London Medical Schools); "the big course" (the Monday to Friday course at The Royal London Homeopathic Hospital); a lecture she had given at The Royal College of General Practitioners; and a packed Wednesday morning open surgery, when fifty patients had turned up (she always called herself a homeopathic General Practitioner). She concluded her apology with "I did not have time to prepare the lecture as I would have liked to". This from the Queen's Physician to someone nearly a generation younger than herself" One could not help but admire her.

The success of the Midland Courses was a great cheer to her and her subsequent letters reflect this. "I can tell you how very glad I was that I came to Birmingham. It was a real inspiration. I am thrilled that so many doctors are interested and I would like to help financially (which she did). I think a letter to all the doctors would be good. Let me know how things go; I feel we mustn't miss the chance".

She liked pithy titles to her lectures, such as "Club moss, its power in potency". She suggested the title for her 1979 lecture could be "The Fat Lovers", obviously referring to the five homeopathic medicines that suit people who, among other things, love fat. However, I pointed out the ambiguity of the title and she readily agreed to rephrase it; "Those who love fat". Unfortunately, ill health prevented her attending, which was a bitter blow to her, and us.

The year previously, in 1978, I had anticipated that the three hundred and sixty mile car journey from Heddingham to Birmingham and back would exhaust her, so I had arranged for her to have lunch in a room by herself to spare her having to meet too many people. She brushed aside the offer saying that she was not used to being shut up in a room to have lunch on her own, and she insisted on meeting as many people as she could. It was on that occasion that we presented her with a silver Queen Anne pepper pot and an illustrated citation which read:

"Presented to Dr. Margery G. Blackie at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, 4th day of November, 1978, from the members of the Midlands Branch of The Faculty of Homeopathy, in appreciation of her inspiration, encouragement, and most generous financial support, without which this Branch would never have been established".

To date there have been twelve annual Symposia at which, on average, thirty-three new doctors attended and nearly fifty half-day Tutorials, with an average attendance of twenty-five doctors. The Midlands Branch now has sixty members and over the years approximately the same number of its members have furthered

their education by going to at least one London Course. During these years, approximately 2,500 General Practitioners annually have been sent programmes of the Symposia, distributed to them through their Family Practitioner Committees, and two of the last three Symposia were granted Section 63 funding. Homeopathy has become respectable in the Midlands, at least at a general practice level. How different from the situation in 1975 before the first Symposium, when there were only six homeopathic doctors within a fifty mile radius of Birmingham. If Margery were alive today to see these results, I am sure she would feel that the effort and money she had invested in the Midlands was yielding handsome returns. Interestingly, those who were most prominent both in The British Homeopathy Research Group and The Blackie Foundation Trust, were regular speakers at these Symposia; as was Dr. Hamish Boyd, a past President of The Faculty, who has done so much to promote homeopathic education in Scotland, and who travelled from Glasgow to be a principal speaker for the first ten years.

But did Margery's example and pattern of teaching only spread to the Midlands? Today there is a thriving National Education Programme directed by an executive Dean who is assisted by two Sub-deans and eight energetic regional Tutors, virtually all of whom have been taught by Margery. Full introductory and intermediate courses are still held in London and have been commenced in Glasgow with dramatic success. Regular courses are held in seven other cities in the British Isles, some of which attract Section 63 approval. Several groups on a smaller scale are convened by dedicated doctors in more remote parts of the country.

Writing and teaching with the authority of her lifetime's experience in Homeopathy, Margery was not afraid to challenge great authorities like Kent, and debunk inaccurate teachings of the past. Whereas some regarded Kent's *Materia Medica* as the Homeopath's Bible, Margery, who firmly believed in the infallibility and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures, did not believe that all the old homeopathic writings were inviolate. For instance, she wrote: "It is reported in all the text books that Kali carb. is dangerous", and she quoted Kent's warning about it; she then gave her reasons for disagreeing with this dictum. Equally she did not hesitate to assert opinions that had not been previously recorded in the literature. She repeatedly taught and wrote "Pulsatilla patients distinctly like sweet things". Recently I decided to find her authority for this statement which most would endorse. Looking through the writings of twenty of the great masters of Homeopathy, going right back to Hahnemann himself, I did not find a single specific statement of this fact. Margery had sufficient confidence in her own judgement to be dogmatic.

In conclusion I would like to mention a few personal reminiscences that illustrate Margery's opinion and character.

She had an independent and determined disposition; once at a Council meeting she was the only member to oppose a certain proposal. Although every one of her colleagues disagreed with her, she stood her ground. To her the issue was a matter of principle.

She was punctual and hated being late for appointments and functions. The Faculty arranged a party and leaving presentation for her after her last day of consultations at her rooms in Thurloe Street. She was held up and left her rooms later than she had intended. The driver, in Margery's opinion, had not taken the quickest route and she began to remonstrate. Her impatience only settled after another passenger told her the apocryphal story of King Charles I, who, on the way to his execution said: "What's the hurry? They can't start until I get there!"

It was at Hedingham Castle that one learned some of the deeper values in Margery's life and about her closest friend Musette Majendie with whom Margery had so much in common and who shared her fundamental beliefs. Both were devout God-fearing women. The memorial plaque which was dedicated to them and placed in the chancel of St. Nicholas Church, Castle Hedingham, states:

"Both of Hedingham Castle and patrons of this Church."
"Together in life, faith, deed and death".

Margery had a lively faith; the bookcases in her bedroom contained many Bible Commentaries and works of evangelical writers. She told me that one of her patients once said to her "Isn't it strange how God answers prayer?" "No", she had replied, "I think it is natural".

In her last illness, Dr. Charles Elliott was the Physician in attendance, assisted by the late Dr. Frank Johnson who came down from the North at regular intervals. We are most indebted to these two doctors who, after Margery's death, undertook the mammoth task of collating all her unpublished lectures and writings. These they edited and published in the book "Classical Homeopathy", to preserve more of Margery's invaluable teaching for posterity. Regrettably, Frank died the night before the book was released.

It was only the selfless devotion of her loyal friend Mrs. Joyce Westmorland, who nursed her each day and many a night, that spared Margery having to go into a nursing home. I continued visiting, although her illness had reached the stage where she could not talk easily and where Homeopathy could only palliate. It was a privilege to be able to read a Psalm to her and to pray with her; she seemed to derive comfort from these ministrations.

Margery was a remarkable and unique lady, and her passing ended an era. Her memory and her work live on and we must determine that since she has given such great impetus to the establishment of homeopathic teaching and research, we do not allow this to slacken.

References

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