

THE Hindu Message

A Weekly Review of Indian and World-Problems
from the Hindu Standpoint.

Medical Supplement

‘चिकित्सितापुण्यतमं न किञ्चिदपि शुश्रुमः’ । ‘विमेत्यल्पश्रुताद्देदो मामयं प्रहरिष्यति’

VOL. I. No 8.]
Registered No. M. 1304.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1922

[PRICE: 1 ANNA
Annual Subscription Rs. 3.]

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Vaccination is claimed by the Western medical faculty to be a veritable boon to humanity, because forsooth hundreds of millions have been able to escape smallpox through it. It has however been thought deplorable that vaccination should leave scars on the skin. But this annoyance will be completely done away with, when Dr. Tamotsu Yamanouchi publishes his newly invented vaccination method. He is conducting his research on the basis of the theory that preventive elements are formed within the body and not in the skin. He has already conducted his experiments on hundreds of persons successfully. It is expected that he will shortly publish his complete theory and method of vaccination. So, here is to the glory of experiment.

We are glad to learn that a Bengalee Doctor, Capt. A. K. Ker, I.M.S., has been decorated with Military Cross for distinguished service in the field whilst serving with the Waziristan force. The official account for which the award has been made is given below :—

On April 10th, 1921, during the action below Haidari Koch, this officer was sent out from camp to bring in wounded. All ranks of the regiment testily to his devotion and personal disregard to danger while binding up wounded and despatching them to camp under a heavy fire. Owing to his coolness and splendid organisation the wounded were systematically evacuated in very difficult circumstances.

We have often said in these pages that the so called Tuberculin are all so many frauds and that the Tuberculosis Institute at Madras is a gigantic waste of public money; that the whole question of "tuberculosis" treatment is in the region of ambiguity and doubt. We have now before us the testimony of an expert on the subject. Dr. Chowry Muthu, a great authority on Tuberculosis, and head of the Mendip hills sanatorium in Somersetshire, is shortly publishing the results of his researches in a book to be entitled: "Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Its Etiology and Treatment." The London Correspondent of the *Hindu* (Madras) writes to that paper a summary of the Doctor's conclusions as given by the Doctor him-

self to a meeting of experts at Holborn Restaurant recently—from which we make no apology to extract a few paragraphs.

Dr. Muthu said that tuberculosis was more of a social than a specific disease, and was due to the insufficiency of good food and the lack of decent housing rather than to infection. Tuberculosis mortality goes up in times of war, excessive taxation, trade depression, unemployment and reduced standard of living, and declines under the opposite circumstances. The tragedy of Central Europe, where many thousands of children and adults have fallen victims to rickets and tuberculosis as a result of the war and its by-products, chronic starvation, underfeeding, and mal-nutrition, has shown the close connection, said the speaker, between economic factors and tuberculosis.

Dr. Muthu holds that open-air treatment is the only remedy that has stood the test of time in the arrest of consumption. All short cuts such as vaccines and serums have in the long run proved to be a disappointment. Speaking from his own long experience, he declares that sanatorium treatment has restored many a tuberculous mother and her unborn child. He described the disease as being primarily a problem for the sociologist and the political reformer. It was not merely a medical question but one of international importance. Its prevention would ultimately depend upon the abolition of war, the promotion of peace, revival of trade and industry, and the improvement of the social and economic condition of the people generally.

The Doctor has struck the right nail on the head when he says that fear seemed to dominate almost every sphere of civilised life. In medicine it was fear of microbes; in Christian theology fear of hell; and in politics fear of the enemy across the frontier. The only sovereign remedy for all man's ills and woes was more faith—faith in the powers of nature to help and to restore (medicine), faith in the Unseen and Perfect Love (theology), and faith in our common humanity (politics). Only with such faith would there dawn a new world, when hatred, war and all social evils like tuberculosis would be swept away.

The Active Principle in Medicinal Drugs—XI.

By Eliyurkar G. SUBRAHMANYA SARMA.

It has to be observed here in passing that what we have just said of the individual functions and actions of the drugs, its *rasa*, *virya* and *vipaka* in medicine, explains away the statements which is otherwise inexplicable in the west. Our readers may recollect that, at the outset of our investigation on this subject, reference was made to the existence of the neutral compounds which also is the active principle of the drug. For example *Pieropodophillin* is a neutral body which is also the active principle of the drug *Padophilli Rhizoma*. Similarly *Calumbin* is a neutral body which acts as the active principle of the drug called *Calumba Radix*.

The composition of these drugs are known, and their active principles are well determined. But yet their action is definitely known to be neutral. How this is?

It was just explained how certain drugs, act by virtue of the peculiar properties acquired in the process of its composition, some by virtue of its *rasa* irrespective of its composition, some by virtue of its *virya* and while others by virtue of its *vipaka*.

In spite of the definite determination of the *rasa* of a drug it was pointed out therein that it can act by virtue of its *virya* as in the case of *Guduchi* or *செந்திரஞ்சை* or it may act by virtue of its *vipaka* as in the case of *Sunthi* or dried ginger or it may act by virtue of its composition as in the case of *Khadira* or *சருமகாவலி*. These are the only possible ways by which this phenomenon could be explained. On this principle it may be observed here that the two neutral bodies *Pieropodophillin* and *Calumbin* the respective active principles of the two drugs, *Padophilli Rhizoma* and *Calumba Radix* act on the system not by virtue of its *rasa* or the active principle but by virtue of any one of the other three properties *virya*, *vipaka* or composition of the drugs. By which of these three is a question for further investigation, which we reserve here for the present.

Similarly there is another question which we have to explain here. It is already referred to in these pages that the active principle of *Cimicifugae Rhizoma* is uncertain and yet the drug is used with advantage in medicine. This peculiar property of this drug could be explained in this way. The peculiar property acquired by the drug in the process of its composition in nature is the only solution as to how this phenomenon is effected. Even in the indeterminate state of the *rasa* a drug, it was said, acts by virtue of its composition as in the case of *Khadira* or *சருமகாவலி*. It is by virtue of this peculiar property of the drug that the *Cimicifuga Rhizoma* acts on the system and is administered with advantage in medicine.

Thus the development by the east in the determination of the properties of a drug is far advanced than that in the west. The west has not been able to account for these peculiarities in a drug though their expert knowledge is exhibited by the determination of the various compounds contained in a drug. And yet students of western medicine have been pleased to charge *Ayurveda* with emperism. That this charge is wholly and absolutely untenable is sufficiently proved. Our readers must have now been convinced that *Ayurveda* is based on scientific principles alone and that the theories enunciated in it are not merely collections of empirical experiences.

So far as this emperism is concerned it is to be observed here that, this emperism is not the monopoly of the eastern system or *Ayurveda* alone. On the other hand, the much boasted western system, in truth has still sunk in emperism or obscurity so far as medicine is concerned. The use of *Quinine*, *Arsenic* and *Iodides* by the west will clearly explain this fact. One will be much tempted to ask "with what rationale are these used in medicine by the west! The prescription of *Sanatogen*, *Salvasin* and other patent preparations thrust upon the unwilling and helpless dumb millions from foreign countries, by the so-called scientific expert minds of the western system is not with a perfect satisfaction of rationale, is well known to the world at large. Is it all scientific therefore, says an impartial student of western medicine, "to employ right and left all these new patent drugs of Europe and America which are thrust upon you with holy advertisements giving formulae, which have only the semblance of science? Are they prescribed with perfect satisfaction of rationale? What rationale is there in being told that *Salvarsan* is the *Di-oxy-di-amido-arseno-benzol*? It is the clinical results that ultimately count and if you follow sound principles of treatment—a little empericism will always stand you in good stead".

In the opinion of the *Ayurvedic* physicians an unknown drug or preparation is like a poison; and they are therefore forbidden from using any new drug unless its therapeutic properties are sufficiently and clearly established. Says *Charaka*:—

यथाविषं यथासन्नं यथासिद्धमनिर्यथा ।

तथैवयं अविज्ञातं विज्ञातमसूतं तथा 'सू. १. ७० ॥

"that an unknown drug is like poison or a weapon or fire or thunder while a known drug is like *Amrittha*." Quite contrary to this is the attitude of an allopath or modern physician of the west. These are "in perpetual search for new discoveries and attractive drugs and prescribe them because some man of note thinks highly of them and within a short time they are superseded by a fresher invasion". To the west, the principle of generalisation of theories, is still in complete darkness. They have completely ignored the importance of it in medicine. Or that they have not well understood or grasped the utility of it in medicine (we cannot say which.) Theirs is only symptomological and they have not endeavoured, if we may say so, up till now, at a generalisation of the principles of treatment. They have consequently failed to perceive, it is to be remarked, that generalisations based on facts and experiences "guide the direction of future researches and to ignore such generalisations is unscientific in the extreme."

This failure, in the west, is mainly responsible for their imperfect knowledge in medicine. We say imperfect, advisedly, because we see, in our daily experience, the utter failure of the modern so-called scientific medical men in combatting with the ever increasing manifold incomprehensible diseases that prey upon the humanity. In diagnosis, the treatment, in diet and what not in every primary and most important but elementary details they fail to the utter disappointment of all, to themselves, the patient and the public.

They are bewildered as to how best they could proceed with the disease; and it is also a well known open secret that no two doctors agree in any one of these items. The use of drugs or compound preparations of them have been entirely swept away from their field, which have been displaced by the fancy of injections. When the much vaunted germ theory has become to be considered to give no satisfactory

solution of the various phenomena which are otherwise inexplicable the day of injections has come to take its place. And the mania for it nowadays is beyond expression in words.

Injections, and operations for every elementary symptoms of a supposed disease has now become the fashion of the day. Advising a patient to undergo operation in the stomach for continued and unabating vomiting, bathing typhoid patients in cold water and similar other instances are evidences of scientific obscurities in these days. We may here cite the evidence of a student of western medicine to show the degree of imperfect knowledge that the western medical men hold in medicine. Says Dr. Samant B. Mehta M. B. Ch. B. a product of the Victoria University of Manchester "the ordinary run of medical practices of 300 years or even 80 years are not infrequently unknown to them. To this fact may be ascribed these revulsions in opinion which are the curiosities of western medical literature. A few decades ago a vast majority of cases were bled and sometimes bled profusely for disease in which that line of treatment was scarcely indicated; now the pendulum of opinion has swung to the other side and speaking from personal experience within the last eighteen years during which I have been a student of medicine I have never seen a case of venesection although there are undoubtedly certain cases where its use would be beneficial."

Thus the opinion of many a student of western medicine is not found to be in favour of it and experiences have proved that the scientific basis claimed for it by them is wholly unjustifiable. In the face of these specific matter-of-fact cases, it is idle, to be blind to the actual truth that is hidden elsewhere and exhibit one's own bigotry towards a blind faith by mere assertions. We may assure our friends that a study of the Ayurvedic system if it will not do anything else, will act as a corrective to the quackery of modern times."

Synthetic Manufacture of Gold.

Every discovery in the scientific world is followed by the revelation of some truth of yesterday. In the light of facts (which after all are said still to have some value) and with the exercise of some judgment, we should be able to unearth some secrets of ancient days. Here in India, we are told that in certain days, there existed some scientists and chemists who could and did manufacture gold from other metals, but this science died out with those few persons and various attempts in later ages having failed hopelessly, we now hear of such a possibility only like a fable of the Arabian Nights. Our faith in this science has not much shaken nowadays that if anybody claims that he can make gold from baser metals, we regard him no more than a charlatan and a quack.

English newspapers in England appear to be somewhat wonder-struck by a sensational statement made by Professor Irving Fisher, an American Economist, in the course of a lecture to the London School of Economics. Prof. Fisher said (says the Reuter's message) that he is informed from a very reliable source that a German chemist was making synthetic gold chemically from baser metals by means of an electric vacuum furnace. He is informed that the German chemist has succeeded in producing gold on commercial basis at a cost only a small fraction of the present cost of mining gold. Doctor F. G. Donnan, Professor of Chemistry, University College, London, though he accepts the possibility of making gold from baser metals, does not believe that the process would

be so cheap as claimed, for in his opinion, German chemist's method had been to break down the elements of the metals by the application of intense heat and that the cost of the electric power required to break these elements must be very heavy.

Whatever may be the method of the German chemist if he has really succeeded in manufacturing gold from baser metals he is to be very warmly congratulated. The possibility of such a science is not denied and it is no wonder that the German chemist with the present day scientific developments in different branches has become practically successful in following the details of procedure laid down in ancient Indian literature. This must be admitted on all hands that the value of gold will diminish considerably and it may be that gold will become a useless metal if this discovery is proved a success.

—Practical Medicine.

Wanted

Maternity Centres.

I propose to go into the details of maternity centres as established in the western cities and discuss how necessary and useful they will be for India.

France is the place which has specialised in such maternity schemes. These centres are formed in many of the cities. Each of these organisations is located in a prominent part of the city or town. Each of these institutions is equipped with all appurtenances and appliances for a thorough examination of women and their treatment and they are under the management of a qualified Superintendent with a number of assistants and nurses. To be more precise these are really in purpose pre-maternity institutions, where the pregnant woman gets sound advice as to any difficulties she may experience and as to how she should conduct herself for the future to have a safe confinement. There the intending mothers undergo a systematic examination and are advised to come at fixed intervals for such examinations and advice.

There are specific advantages in such early and repeated examinations. As an example let us take the case of a woman whose long configuration of her pelvic framework deviates from that of a normal woman. (malformation of Pelvis.) A normal course of maternity is impossible in the case of such a woman. Milder malformations regain the use of forceps; if such women have had proper and timely advice it will be very often the cause of saving that woman from all difficulties and complications at term (See.) Take the case of a woman who has had no such advice. She goes under a false sense of security that everything is quite alright and she will have a natural safe confinement. At term she meets with the usual difficulties and complications peculiar to such pelvis. Very often the child is dead before she goes to succour and in many cases it is not uncommon to find that she is so damaged (caused by ignorant tractions and other manipulations of an untrained midwife) and exhausted, that she only goes to the hospital to die.

Another example of somewhat rare nature, we get amongst humanity a few of congenital disease of the heart. These do not understand the trouble and they frequently marry. In their interests they should never get pregnant and even if such trouble (heart) be not detected before the first pregnancy as soon as it is noticed the victim should be warned of the magnitude of the danger and be strongly advised not to stand any more chance of conception. These are few of the manifold ways in which the maternity centre becomes a very useful institution. Maternity and child welfare centres are joint institutions and each maternity centre of the west is closely and intimately associated with a child welfare centre. Both institutions co-exist in the same

premises and are closely allied. In India an awakening has been created of late in this direction and some beginnings have been made. Considering the vastness of India the large amount of her illiteracy, these beginnings seem to me like bubbles in an ocean. To my mind the rural area appears the best place to work. Cities like Madras boasting of a number of Maternity Hospitals and quite a number of lady doctors, inhabited mostly by men conversant with the 3 R's should be considered much better off than most rural parts. A woman is the proper adviser to a woman and can carry the gospel of such awakening much better than anybody. Every village Panchayat or Union, the smallest unit, should start such schemes and if Government can give the required help in the way of staff and equipment much work can be done. More babies can be saved every year from premature death and a better state of things hoped for in the next generation.

—The Hindu.

Tata Ramamurti Vaidya of Vizagapatam assures all medical practitioners and particularly the consumptive patients that the following Ayurvedic prescription is a sure remedy for consumption, whatever may be the stage of the disease. This remedy will not disappoint anybody that uses it. It may be used safely by all, young and old, in all seasons. It is enough if the patients take easily digestible and nourishing food. The triumph of Ayurveda in consumption too, will be known by using this.

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Our Delhi contemporary, the *Practical Medicine* has the following in its January issue:—*The Hindu Message*:—This weekly friend who has been doing the hard task of advocating the advancement of material prosperity on a spiritual basis from the last nine years (Sic.) and in attaining which object we are glad to see the paper has achieved great success, has now started a medical supplement from the 1st of December last. This supplement, consisting of four pages only, will contain short notes, useful hints and articles written by professional men, well versed in the ancient Hindu system of Medicine—Ayurveda. The policy of the supplement will be to advocate the Aurvedic system though Yunani and Western systems will also be dealt with. Ancient simple methods of hygiene and sanitation will be expounded in special articles. We have since seen more than two of these supplements and find them full of interesting news and information. We congratulate the publishers on their new undertaking and wish them all success.

Swarna - Rathnakaram

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Prepared by Pandit C. T. ARUMUGAM PILLAY, Ayurvedic Doctor, and the member of the Committee on the indigenous systems of medicine (the Ayurvedic and Unani) and son of

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