

THE

Hindu Message

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

Medical Supplement

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

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The All-India Ayurvedic Conference held at Rajahmundry passed the following four resolutions unanimously.

This Conference expresses its thanks to the District Boards and Municipalities and other local bodies for encouraging Ayurveda by opening Ayurvedic Dispensaries and by instituting scholarships for the study of Ayurveda and further requests other local bodies throughout India to follow their example.

This Conference resolves that the Ayurvedic Mahamandal should take on hand immediately propaganda work in rural areas in the prevention of disease or 'Swasthya' according to Ayurvedic principles and further appeals to the public to render all possible help to the workers in the field who are in turn selected by the Mahamandal.

This Conference thinks it most important to train up women medical practitioners and health officers on Ayurvedic lines and requests the Ayurvedic Mahamandal to make strenuous efforts to train up women as medical practitioners and mid-wives.

This Conference requests the Mahamandal to prepare immediately lists from each district of practicing Ayurvedic physicians and publish the same under its authority.

Pundit Purushotama Sastri of Poona moved a resolution in Sanskrit conveying grateful thanks to Mr. Muralidas, a Vaisya of Yeola near Poona in Nasik district, who has donated 4 lakhs of rupees for opening a free Ayurvedic Dispensary in those parts, thereby fetching an interest of about Rs. 25,000,

It was also unanimously carried.

Other resolutions in brief passed by the Conference were the appointment of a Committee empowering it to settle the location (and other things allied to it) of the Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya of Allahabad and the acceptance of the resignation of Pundit Jagannadha Prasad Shukla of his Secretaryship of the Mahavidyalaya. The filling up of the vacancy was left to the Committee appointed.

There has been for the last 3 years some agitation going on regarding the opening of a Mahavidyalaya or a Model Ayurvedic College in India. Year after year this question it appears has been brought forward in open conferences and now owing to a fresh development in the resignation of the Secretaryship by Pundit Jagannath Prasad Shukla, the question cropped up regarding the seat or the location of the Mahavidyalaya.

After some discussion on a technical matter the following resolution was placed before the Conference:—

“This Conference resolves that the Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya be established at Madras.”

Then after a prolonged informal discussion Pundit Purushothama Sastri Nanal again rose and spoke in Sanskrit proposing that the subject be referred to a select committee.

Before putting the resolution to vote the President said.—

If we pass a resolution giving power to the Committee, to the Secretaries to establish an Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya either at Madras or at Calcutta or at both the places it would decide the question. For this purpose a committee has been suggested. You can suggest any names to be members in the committee and give power to add any more.

Having made some more introductory remarks to the effect that the committee had the power to settle any place they liked he requested Mr. N. Subba Rao Pantulu to speak. He explained the President's remarks in Telugu. Dr. Lakshminpathi supported the resolution. It was carried unanimously.

The following resolution was also passed:—
“Taking into consideration the policy of this Conference this Conference considers it to be the duty of the Ayurveda Mahamandal and other Ayurvedic physicians to give replies to the questionnaire issued by the Committees appointed by different provincial governments and give evidence and to work on Committees if called upon as the same would conduce to the

better understanding of the principles of Ayurveda and to its advancement."

Regarding the question whether to answer the questionnaire of Government Committee and give evidence, the President before putting the resolution to vote said in summing up the discussion. Let us not be led away by passions and sentiments. A perusal of the correspondences would show that the Government were willing to make provision for Ayurvedic institutions and that this could be done by the agitation created in Councils and in Conferences. Only last year at the 12th session at Bombay we have a challenge to Government that a Committee consisting of Ex-Presidents was ready at any moment to give replies if Government authorities or any medical practitioners would correspond with the Ayurveda Mahamandal. The challenge is there and it is accepted. Then all our friends should come forward.

With this appeal the resolution was put to vote and declared 'carried by majority.' There were many who were neutral and very few voted for or against the resolution.

The report of the Ayurveda Vidyapeetha was read by Dr. Lakshminpathi and was adopted. Certificates were awarded.

* *

The following resolutions also were put to vote and carried in open Conference.
8th instant.

I. This Conference appoints a Committee (names here omitted) to investigate into the properties of drugs.

II. This Conference expresses its great satisfaction at the news of the establishment of an Ayurvedic College with a hospital in Rishikul Ashram, Haridwar and thanks the Hon'ble Lala Sukhr Singh, and other organisers of the College for the deep interest they have shown in the advancement of Ayurveda.

III. This Conference resolves that (a) the Ayurveda Vidya Peetha should if necessary establish Sub-Committees in different provinces according to language for the examination of Bhisak. (b) the Sub-Committee should consist of 10 members out of which seven should be elected by the provincial bodies and three should be nominated by the Ayurveda Vidya Peetha; (c) The Sub-Committee should translate the examination papers sent by the Vidya Peetha from Sanskrit into their own languages; and they should also examine the answer books and send the results to the Ayurveda Vidya Peetha; (d) as the Andhra province requires such a Sub-Committee immediately it should be established at once. This Andhra Sub-Committee should translate the examination papers into Andhra language. If the Committee thinks it necessary it may set an additional paper or papers from the existing Ayurvedic books in Andhra language; (e) Application forms for examination as fees for the same should be sent to the Secretary, Ayurveda Vidya Peetha as usual according to rules.

IV. That the present body of Andhra Ayurveda Vidya Peetha shall be the Sub-Committee for the current year as a special case and the Sub-Committee to be elected at the next Andhra Provincial Conference shall be elected in accordance with the above resolution.

V. This Conference places on record its high appreciation of the work of Ayurvedacharya N. Madhava Menon as General Secretary of the Mahamandal for the last four years.

VI. This resolution appointed the Office-bearers and provincial secretaries of the Mahamandal.

VII. This resolution elected members to the Ayurveda Vidya Peetha.

VIII. This Conference expresses its appreciation of the valuable services done by the Mahant of Tirupathi Devasthanam by establishing an Ayurvedic School and free dispensary from the funds of the Devasthanam. The Conference expects the school to grow up into a great Ayurvedic College in Southern India thereby supplying a great want of properly trained and qualified Ayurvedic physicians.

* *

In the course of his address of welcome at the All-India Ayurvedic Conference, Mr. N. Subbarao Pantulu, B. A. B. L., Chairman, Reception Committee, spoke as follows:—

As in other directions, Bengal was here also early in the field. Kaviyaj after acquiring knowledge, some of them after taking degrees, in western medical science have been practising the Ayurvedic system and have made a name throughout India and compete successfully with their European rivals. It is a hopeful sign that public men in this part of the country have begun to realise the need of encouraging the indigenous system. More than forty years ago the late Mr. Palte Chentsal Rau Pantulu C. I. E., organised an Ayurvedic Dispensary at Nellore which was maintained for many years from public subscriptions and latterly out of the late Mr. Cunnam Chetty's charities. I am glad to learn that when the trustees of these charities could not maintain the institution, the District Board of Nellore under the presidency of Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao, M. L. C. has arranged to take it over. Some 16 years ago the late Hon. Mr. V. Krishnaswamy Iyer took the lead in establishing at Mylapore, Madras, the Venkatramana Ayurvedic Dispensary and school in memory of his father. But the main credit for resuscitating the Ayurveda in this province must be accorded to Ayurveda Martanda Bhishagmani Vaidyaratna Pandit D. Gopala Charlu, a native of Masulipatam. The thanks of the public are due to him for his incessant labours in it cause and for having established at Madras at great sacrifice the Ayurvedic College and hostel, whose students have been attracting attention by their work in different parts of the province. He has organised conferences such as these and devoted his lifetime to the spread of Ayurveda. I am glad to note that the Municipal Councils of Rajahmundry, Guntur, Salem, and the District Board of Kistna have just established Ayurvedic dispensaries and the Godavari District Board has also come forward to make a contribution towards medical relief according to Ayurvedic principles. Other District Boards and Councils also are slowly moving in this direction. Ayurvedic and Unani Schools are being established here and there. Recently an Ayurvedic Medical College was founded at Ahmedabad and the Tipi College at Delhi was opened by Mahatma Gandhi and it is being conducted under the supervision of Hakim Ajmal Khan. It is gratifying to note that the Benares Hindu University has included Ayurveda in the faculty of Oriental Learning and we hope that other Universities will follow its example. It is noteworthy that the Indian Legislative Assembly

in January last adopted a resolution for the appointment of a committee to recommend what practical steps should be taken under the indigenous systems for the prevention and cure of epidemics in the country but no committee has yet been appointed. The Madras Government at the insistence of the local Legislative Council appointed a Committee to study the present condition of the indigenous systems of medicine and make proposals for their betterment. But this policy of drift and evasion without definiteness and continuity of aim will bear no fruitful results.

It is the duty of Government to start Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals and maintain them on up to date lines and extend the same patronage to the native systems as they do to the European system. Now that medical education and medical relief is a transferred subject, it behoves the Legislative Council to realise its responsibilities and take steps in the matter as early as possible. It is now our duty to educate the public and see that only those who are pledged to our cause are returned to the Councils and local bodies. For this purpose we must appoint persons to carry on vigorous propaganda work in each Province so that our Local bodies and Legislative Councils may allot adequate funds for the encouragement of the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine and medical relief to the poor even in remote villages.

Again, new conditions of life produce new diseases. There can be no finality in an experimental science like medicine. It has to deal with the play of numerous organs in ever widening activities in various combinations and grapple with new experiences as mankind advances from stage to stage. Research laboratories, colleges, and hospitals are needed, if the Ayurvedic system is to keep itself abreast of its rivals or at least to hold its own against the keen competition of Western scientists. After all both Western and Eastern practitioners are labourers in the same field and work for the same goal. Although their methods are different, there is much that each might profitably learn from the other. There are numerous cases where one empiricism has failed, the other has stepped in and brought relief to the patient.

Above all, he is the real follower of Dhanvantri, the real servant of mankind, who prevents disease and ensures healthful conditions and not he who administers drugs after disease sets in. To do this work efficiently, he must understand nature's finer forces and direct them from a higher plane.

It is now recognised that mind plays a more potent part than body in causing or preventing disease. We have heard of miraculous instances where persons by word of mouth or touch have cured cases which have been given up as hopeless. We have a whole science of Mantra Sastra which deals with this branch of the subject. In the west, there are institutions where suggestion is used for curing disease and there are numbers of practitioners who use no drugs for banishing disease.

The President in his interesting concluding speech expressed his gladness for the successful conduct of the proceedings. He accepted with diffidence the honour given to him as there was the difficulty of language. He was all along under the impression that people in general here understood Sanskrit very well and consequently if the proceedings were carried on in Sanskrit there would be no difficulty. But to his astonishment he found quite the contrary.

As regards the progress of the Conference he said—I have to express my satisfaction especially because there were great parties in this province. At present you know the position of the Ayurvedic Conference is rather very peculiar. The Conference has striven during the last 12 years or more to secure the sympathy and support of the people as well as of Government. And it is now just the time when people are coming to the help of Ayurveda as well as the angle of vision of Government is also changed. At such a time when there is an opportunity for Ayurvedic physicians to attain their end we must take advantage of the circumstances and push forth our Ayurveda.

Next referring to the help rendered and to the growth of colleges and hospitals, he expressed the hope of establishing model Ayurvedic Colleges in every Presidency town very shortly. Reference was made at length to the establishment of the Rishikul Ayurvedic College in U. P., to the attempts made by Kavirajes in Calcutta for an Ayurvedic College and the support in the Legislative Council and to the possibilities of a College at Tirupathi. After touching upon the resolutions passed the President expressed his grateful thanks to the Reception Committee, to the delegates, to the Volunteers etc.

Much Longer Life Possible.

150 Years Suggested.

How is longevity to be attained? M. Jean Finot in the 'Revue Mondiale,' gives answer, regarding the subject from a new aspect. First of all, he says, the common notions as to the necessary brevity of life must be abandoned. Man, he insists, can live 150 years, and this in a state of health that will permit

him to serve himself through all his physiological and moral faculties. He says:

"One of the principal reasons for man's death before 100 years has been the false idea that 80 or 90 years marked the extreme limit of his terrestrial life. This auto-suggestion crept like a poison into man's consciousness and made the ravages of time conform to its contents. As soon as it is replaced by the truth that we can attain the age of a century and a half—many persons proceed towards it with serenity and radiant conditions of health.

"What is more, physicians who formerly refused to treat in the usual way people who had exceeded the conventional limits of life, attributing their infirmities to quasi old age, to-day treat them like other patients. And they obtain unexpected results.

"Count Greppi, who died in 1920 at the age of 103, furnishes an edifying example for the centenarians of to-morrow. The former Italian Ambassador and Senator had until the last moment of his life kept up his physiological and intellectual forces. He, no doubt would still be among the living had it not been for the excessive astonishment with which he was incessantly regarded on account of his old age. He was so much tormented on account of his hundred years that he ultimately was seized with anxiety and apprehensions that undermined and finally killed him."

Innumerable documents have been sent to M. Finot from all parts of the globe, enough to fill a large volume. The following is the summary of the contents of a recent letter sent to him by an eminent Chilean lawyer:

"In Temuco, where he exercises the functions of protector of the natives, there are, in a population of 40,000 souls, more than twenty persons who have reached the century-and-a-half mark.

"The author of this document guarantees the absolute authenticity of his statements, resulting from one of the most thorough investigations."

"Since I launched the doctrine of longevity, which actually enjoys a success beyond all my hopes," says M. Finot, "others have tried to surpass my assertions. Dr. Eugene Fisk maintains the doctrine that it will be possible to prolong human life beyond 1,900 years. He supports his assertion on the fact that we have succeeded in prolonging by 900 times the existence of certain worms; that the tortoise lives over 2,000 years, and that several plants succeed in going beyond tens of centuries.

"Nothing authorises us, it is true, to accept this doctrine, which only brings in its favour arguments that have no bearing on human physiology. Yet it must not be rejected with contempt; for however improbable it be, this and all similar doctrines can only help the triumph of the real doctrine of normal longevity that should attain a century and a half."

—Popular Science Siftings.

Swarna - - Rathnakaram

A REAL PANACEA
FOR ALL KARMA ROGAS

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

Ayurveda Bhaskara C. T. SUBRAMANIA PANDITHAR, the author of such rare works as 'Jeevarakshamirtham' and other Ayurvedic Shastras.

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2. Mr. Anjanappa Naidu, BELLARY, writes:—

My Eyes were red and became Blind. After some time I went to the Ophthalmic Hospital, BANGALORE. Dr. Surgeon of Bellary, and the Ophthalmic Hospital at MADRAS, who all failed to cure me. By your "Swarna Rathnakaram" and "Nayanamirtam" and Eye Medicines my right Eye became alright in 12 days and left Eye in 15 days.

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