

Newsletter

Number 6 February 1985

Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud EHESS, 54 bd Raspail, 75006 Paris, France



International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

In the wake of Surabaya

The Second International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM II), held at Surabaya last September, was attended by 495 participants coming from 24 countries; 127 papers were read, abstracts of which were published in the form of a book of 200 pages. The magnificent organization and festivities offered by Airlangga University and the Authorities of the Republic of Indonesia were enthusiastically acclaimed by all participants. In the wake of this congress, new regional chapters of IASTAM are being established, first, in Indonesia itself, then in Korea, in the Philippines, in North America... Further details are given on page 6. New officers and new council members have been elected and appointed; the list is given on pages 3 & 6 along with a statement from the President of the association. Follow-up regional workshops are planned (like the one in London mentioned on page 8), and the publication of, at least, a few selected papers given at Surabaya is underway.

It might be useful to quote here an article of our constitution. The objects and purposes of this Association are: "To promote and encourage the study of traditional Asian medicine, including both the 'classical' systems and local and tribal traditions, in all their aspects - historical, philosophical, anthropological, sociological, and scientific." We aim at establishing IASTAM as a scholarly and pluridisciplinary organization.

The present issue of IASTAM Newsletter appears in a transitional shape, which corresponds to the opening of a new phase in the development of this Association, and so to say, a phase of consolidation. We are making arrangements for a more substantial, a more informative, a more scientific periodical publication to be set up by the end of next year. We hope the Newsletter will grow organically into a Journal. For the time being, we have kept to the eight-page unsophisticated format. Furthermore, this issue is packed with information about IASTAM that will be eventually collected apart, and duly supplemented, in a special brochure. The next issues will give more space to conference reports and book reviews. All suggestions and contributions are welcome.

To open this new phase without failing to relate the most recent developments to the original endeavours of those who created IASTAM in 1979, we requested Professor A.L. Basham to communicate his reflections on the two international conferences organized under his presidency. Our most heartfelt thanks to him for his contribution. EDITOR

A. L. Basham

Reflections on two ICTAMS

The very successful second ICTAM at Surabaya to me was particularly gladdening, because I had been largely responsible for calling the first ICTAM in 1979, and I was more than happy to see that the modest conference we had held in Australia had borne fruit in a larger and more elaborate one.

The idea of holding such a conference was inspired in the first instance sometime in 1977 by a research student, Ken Zysk, who was then working at the Australian National University under my supervision on the theme of Vedic medicine*. He suggested that I should organize an international seminar on Ayurveda. The idea seemed intrinsically a good one, but at that time in Australia there was little interest in Indian traditional medicine at the universities, and thus I could not foresee much support for such a seminar. On the other hand there did seem the possibility of support in Australia for a wider conference, covering all aspects of traditional medicine in Asia.

So, rather nervously, I called a meeting, consisting mainly of members of the staff of the ANU. They showed surprising enthusiasm for the proposal, and formed themselves into an organizing committee. We obtained the approval of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, and set to work to raise funds and to give the conference preliminary publicity. Our attempts at raising funds were not very successful. The international foundations which generally support such ventures were not very interested, most of them no doubt frightened away by the fact that the conference was being organized on an ad hoc basis, and had not been initiated by a learned society, either international or national. But the WHO encouraged us, and the Australian government was not unsympathetic. So we managed to raise enough money, in cash and promises, to hold a modest conference, and plans went ahead. Despite setbacks and disappointments, the conference secretary, Jacqueline Holyoake**, worked wonders, showing intense enthusiasm and efficiency, and Bob Kirk, the treasurer, juggled with non-existent funds in a masterly manner.

Response to our announcements was larger than we had expected, and when the conference opened we found that we had about 300 members, coming from all the five continents. The first ICTAM could offer none of the luxury of Surabaya. It was the time of the Australian spring vacation, and most of the members had to put up with the comparatively Spartan conditions of the University's halls of residence. Conditions were not improved by the weather. The climate in Canberra during early spring is unpredictable. Often the days are warm and sunny, but in 1979 September was cold, windy and wet. Moreover most of the members of the conference came from the Northern Hemisphere at the end of the northern summer, and thus they must have found the contrast in temperatures particularly trying.

(Continued on page 8)

South Asian Systems of Healing

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASIAN STUDIES Editors: K. Ishwaran and
Bardwell L. Smith VOLUME 18 "SOUTH ASIAN SYSTEMS OF HEALING"
Edited by E. Valentine Daniel and Judy F. Pugh LEIDEN: E.J. Brill
Publishers, 1984 (ISBN 90 04 07805 0)

Contents

- Robert A. HAHN "Rethinking 'Illness' and 'Disease'"
Margaret Trawick EGNOR "The Changed Mother, or what the Small-
pox Goddess did when there was no more Smallpox"
Lorna Amarasingham RHODES "Time and the Process of Diagnosis in
Sinhalese Ritual Treatment"
Peter J. CLAUS "Medical Anthropology and the Ethnography of
Spirit Possession"
Deborah P. BHATTACHARYYA "Desire in Bengali Ethnopsychology"
Judy F. PUGH "Concepts of Person and Situation in North Indian
Counseling: The Case of Astrology"
Katherine EWING "The Sufi as Saint, Curer, and Exorcist in
Modern Pakistan"
E. Valentine DANIEL "The Pulse as an Icon in Siddha Medicine"

This is a very fine publication. The table of contents will already indicate that this small book goes far beyond the mere ethnographic description of medical practices, and far beyond the Behaviourism too often displayed in the field of medical anthropology. These anthropologists are addressing themselves to the study of some major philosophical problems: the question of Time as a healing factor, Desire and the psyche, the concept of Person, and the principle of Iconicity (borrowed from the American philosopher C.S. Peirce) used in defining the ways of Diagnosis in Siddha medicine. This collection of papers is of special significance in the context of current researches. The two editors, and some of the other contributors as well, have been associated for long (as students, researchers or lecturers) with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, where they have been trained in the most sophisticated methods of symbolic, structural and cultural anthropology. They are now making their way towards an ethnoscience of Asian realities as understood by Asian people themselves. Medical anthropology and the study of "systems of healing" will lead them to a more general science of culture, and to cross-cultural comparison. The introduction provided by Drs E. Valentine Daniel and Judy F. Pugh is quite useful in pointing to the main themes or theses recurring throughout the book. The major thesis is that of a strongly argued criticism of the individual-centered notion of health. The Behaviourists of the West will systematically define illness and suffering by relating or ascribing them to a particular individual (the patient), and to a particular disease (biologically delimited). This is true even of the most cunning and ironical of our social sciences, that is to say, Psychoanalysis. "Psychoanalysis, unlike earlier therapies, locates therapy in a dialogue. And yet, its locus classicus remains in the individual. Not so in the Indian version: psychoanalysis has had to shift its grounds in order to incorporate the 'environment' as an integral part of the structure and dynamics of the psyche to a degree that orthodox psychoanalysis would never have done" (p. xi). This displacement, or better, this shift of emphasis is carried out by developing a new discourse, speaking of "situations" more than of individuals, and of "the texture of suffering" (p. ix), which is inter-, extra-, and trans-personalized, instead of being focused on a singularly targeted patient.

Classics

Would it be advisable to point out in IASTAM Newsletter those books recently published on Greek (and/or Latin) medicine and materia medica that appear to be of interest to the students of Asian medicine, either because these books trace historical links between East and West, or because they offer new models for cross-cultural comparison?

We would like to give here two examples of such books, one selected for its historical value, and the other one selected to illustrate the second type mentioned above, which provides for new models in the comparative history of ancient medicine.

The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, Translated from the Greek and edited by G.W.B. HUNTINGFORD, London: Hakluyt Society (C/o The British Library, London WC1B 3DG), 1980, pp. xiv-225, £ 12 (ISBN 0 904 180 05 0)

This is a famous text of ancient geography, but of uncertain date (between A.D. 95 and 130?) and unknown authorship. The late Dr Huntingford's translation is based on an intimate knowledge of the topography and ethnography of East Africa, and on researches conducted over half a century. Its precision is enhanced by several maps and indices, and a fascinating set of illustrations (of the shapes of boats and ships). This book is a must for an Indianist, and for the historian of ancient pharmacy and the spice trade.

G.E.R. LLOYD Science, Folklore and Ideology, Studies in the Life Sciences in Ancient Greece CAMBRIDGE: C.U.P., 1983, pp. xi-260 (ISBN 0 521 27307 2 for paperback)

Three parts: I. The development of zoological taxonomy.- II. The female sex: medical treatment and biological theories in the 5th & 4th centuries B.C.- III. Developments in pharmacology, anatomy and gynaecology.

Anthropology is used to provide a comparative dimension to the discussion of such questions as that of Tradition and the authority of the written text in ancient medicine. A topical book!

Wives & Midwives in Malaysia

Carol LADERMAN Wives & Midwives, Childbirth and Nutrition in Rural Malaysia BERKELEY: University of California Press, 1983 (In the series "Comparative Studies of Health Systems and Medical Care"), pp. xiv-268 (ISBN 0 520 04924 1)

On the one hand, this is an extremely rich, detailed and perceptive ethnographic report on beliefs and customs associated with pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum diet, observed in a particular parish of the state of Trengganu, on the east coast of peninsular Malaysia. As an apprentice to a village midwife and a local shaman, the author has also acquired a first-hand knowledge of the traditional healing practices. But on the other hand, this is a dissertation on the broad philosophical and theoretical concerns of anthropology, and particularly on the relationship of Ideology with Behaviour. Is it true to say, as western observers have long claimed, that adherence to tradition is a root cause of malnutrition among peasant peoples? A careful analysis of food ideology, and of the Humoralist tenets of traditional Malay medicine in the context of actual behaviour, shows that Tradition is not a monolith, but allows for flexible interpretations and variations. To the classicist (I mean, the student of any one of the three classical Asian systems of Humoral medicine - Arabic, Hindu, or Chinese), this beautifully written and elegantly edited anthropological study will provide parallels for a cross-cultural comparison and an ethnographic approach to the Humoral system.



International Association for the
Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

On IASTAM

After millennia of rather separate cultural developments, Eastern and Western civilizations are engaged, as a result of the economic, political, and technological changes of the past two centuries, in an exchange of goods and ideas, of material and immaterial resources, that is unprecedented in history. Thoughts and merchandise have travelled from East to West and likewise from West to East for more than two thousand years already, but the intensity of cultural communication as we witness it today goes far beyond the rather sporadic nature of contacts and exchanges in the past. The prospect of a future convergence of hitherto more or less independent civilizations may be welcomed by some, and it may appear dreadful to others, but regardless of the final outcome of the contemporary rapprochement between East and West, it offers a novel opportunity to learn from each other, and to share the wisdom that has been accumulated through the ages in each culture, in each nation, and in each society respectively. Medicine touches on the very fundamentals of human existence, and it should be one of the most rewarding aspects of current and future East-West communications to advance towards a better understanding of each other's health care traditions. IASTAM was founded to provide an organizational framework for the study of traditional Asian medicine, a framework designed to improve the exchange of information, insights, opinions, and experiences among all those who for whatever academic, administrative or practical reasons have a scholarly interest in the study of traditional Asian medicine. IASTAM has grown, over its first five years of existence, into a world-wide association, uniting scholars from a wide range of disciplines among its members. Although many persons appear to have joined IASTAM because previous studies and experiences have convinced them of a continuing value of traditional Asian medicine in contemporary health care, IASTAM as an association supports solely the study of the various Asian medical traditions, and leaves it entirely to its members to define the motives and goals of their studies. Consequently, and this has become impressively obvious at ICTAM II in Surabaya last September, IASTAM has developed into a uniquely interdisciplinary association, with members defining themselves as anthropologists, ethnologists, historians, linguists, philologists, and sociologists, as well as medical scientists, practitioners, and administrators from virtually all nations of the Asian, Australian, European, and American continents. ICTAM II has demonstrated, furthermore, that the heterogeneity of the membership of IASTAM is one of its major assets, and should be seen as a real advantage in that it offers a rare opportunity to exchange views and to communicate across those narrow disciplinary boundaries hampering the flow of knowledge so often today. An interdisciplinary and cross-cultural exchange of views and knowledge shall remain a major goal of IASTAM in the future, and the newly elected and appointed officers and council members of IASTAM, representing as many scholarly disciplines, and as many Asian medical traditions as possible, are asked to contribute their resources to this effect. The semi-annual newsletter, regional symposia on specific topics, and the comprehensive congresses every four to five years, as well as other activities, shall result in an ever improving understanding of traditional health care in Asia, past and present.

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Negotiations are under way to fill another vice-presidential position with a representative from the People's Republic of China. The list of IASTAM Council members is in page 6.

Regional Chapters

Three regional chapters have been formed already. The first, formed as soon as 1980, was the Indian Association for the study of Traditional Asian Medicine. Professor K.N. Udupa is President and Professor R.K. Mutatkar, among other responsibilities, is the Editor of an interesting Newsletter. Write: IASTAM-India, C/o Zandu Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., Gokhale Road South, Bombay 400025, India. The second one, registered in 1984, is the Malaysian Association for the Study of Traditional Medicine, with Dr Khalilur Rahman Bin Abdul Kareem, AMN, as President. For more information write to: MASTAM, 43-B, Jalan Jejaka Sembilan, 2 Miles Jalan Cheras, Taman Maluri, P.O. Box 6053 Pudu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The third is IASTAM-Europe, the President of which is Professor J.C. Bürgel; see Report on page 7.

Current work on traditional Asian medicine in the U. K.

by Dominik Wujastyk

This is the second part of a survey, the first part of which was published in the last issue of this newsletter (Number 5, August 1984). As with the first part, the following record of current work is of necessity subjective. I have tried to speak personally with all the researchers mentioned, but in some cases this was not possible. I apologise in advance for any errors of omission or commission, in particular to anyone who feels that I have misrepresented their work. It is almost certain that there are workers of whom I have not heard, and who are therefore not mentioned; this is of course my fault, not theirs.

3. Islamic medicine

To the information given in the last issue of the newsletter can now be added some more information on the work of Dr Gül A. RUSSELL, Honorary Research Fellow at University College, London. Dr Russell, whose work also covers the history of the transmission of medicine and science from Islamic civilisation into 17th century England, has published on the optics and ocular anatomy of Ibn al-Haytham, Ibn Sīnā's psychology, and Ibn Tufayl's notions of ontogeny and childhood. Further publications include:

'Vision', in Dictionary of the History of Science, edited by W.F. Bynum, R. Porter & E.J. Browne (London: Macmillan, 1982), pp. 214-217.

Dr Russell has the following articles and chapters in the press:

'The rôle of an Almohad physician in the discovery of childhood in 17th century England,' in Child care through the ages, Proceedings of the 10th British congress on the history of medicine (1984);

'Physiological optics' and 'The problem of medical illustration in Islam,' in Arabic Science, edited by R. Rashed (C.N.R.S., Paris), to appear in French, English and Arabic. 'Itâki's Tashrih al-Ebdân: A 17th century Ottoman MS of anatomical illustrations,' Kos (With a critical text & translation).

'The impact of Hayy ibn Yaqzan on the royalist intellectuals at Oxford,' History of Science.

Since 9 October 1984 Dr Russell and Prof. G.A. RATTANSI have been running a research seminar under the joint auspices of the Wellcome Institute and the department of the History and Philosophy of Science, University College, London, on the sources of medicine, science and technology in Islamic civilisation. Future meetings held at the Wellcome Institute on Tuesdays at 4.00 p.m. are as follows: 26 February 'East of Gondeshapur: Indian and Iranian sources of Abbasid medicine and science' by Dr L. Richter-Bernburg (Göttingen),

5 March "'Genizah" documents and their place in the history of medical writings in Arabic and Hebrew' by Dr H. Isaacs (Cambridge),

19 March 'Nature and necessity in Islamic philosophy: mediaeval controversies' by Dr O. Leaman (Liverpool).

A two day workshop called 'The interests of the Natural Philosophers in "Arabick" in 17th century Britain,' held on the 20th and 21st of June 1985, starting at 9.30 a.m., will conclude the seminar series. An exhibition of books and manuscripts under the title 'Islamic science: crossroad of cultures' is to be held at the Wellcome Institute from the 19th to the 27th of September 1985.

4. Chinese medicine

Dr. Joseph NEEDHAM and Dr. LU Gwei-Djen at Cambridge continue their monumental labours on the history of science in China, as reported in the last issue of the newsletter. Although now five years old, a survey of work on traditional medicine should not omit mention of Dr Lu and Professor Needham's:

Celestial Lancets: A History and Rationale of Acupuncture and Moxa (Cambridge: C.U.P., 1980), pp. xxi, 427 (charts, ill.). In principle this forms part of Volume 6 of "Science and Civilisation in China" but is published as an independent volume.

Two years ago they published the latest of the volumes on alchemy and early chemistry in "Science and Civilisation in China":

Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Part V: Spagyric Discovery and Invention: Physiological Alchemy (Cambridge: C.U.P., 1983), pp. xxxiii, 574 (ill.).

As reported in the last issue of the newsletter, 1984 saw the publication of the first volume of "Science and Civilisation in China" to be wholly written by someone other than Dr Needham. It is by Francesca Bray and is the first of the Biology volumes to appear:

Biology and Biological Technology, Part II: Agriculture (Cambridge: C.U.P., 1984), pp. xxvii, 724 (ill.).

The next volumes to appear in the series are: Volume 5 Part I on Paper and Printing by CH' IEN Ts'un-Hsün (At the page-proof stage, to appear in summer or autumn of 1985); Volume 5 Part VII on Gunpowder Weapons and Engines by Drs Needham, Lu, HO Ping-Yü, and WANG Ling (Currently being set up for page proofs); Volume 6 Part I on Botany by Drs Needham and Lu (Currently being set up for page proofs.) Dr Lu is currently researching the volume on forensic medicine.

Mr Alexander MACDONALD, first Honorary Secretary of the British Medical Acupuncture Society, has published:

Acupuncture: From Ancient Art to Modern Medicine, Medicine Today series (London: Allen & Unwin, 1982), pp. xiv, 184 (ill.).

The Journal of Chinese Medicine edited by Peter DEADMAN and Giovanni MACIOCIÀ continues to be published from Hove, Sussex BN3 3EB, and the issue of September 1984 (Number 16) included the following articles: 'The differentiation and treatment of epigastric pain by acupuncture' by Vivienne Brown (pp. 2-17); 'The differentiation of syndromes according to the zangfu - the lungs' by Julian Scott (18-25); 'The treatment of cholelithiasis by acupuncture' (Anon. 26-27); 'The treatment of renal colic by acupuncture' by Prof. Qui Mao-lian (28-30).

Drs Sheila M. HILLIER and J.A. JEWELL recently published: Health Care and Traditional Medicine in China, 1800-1982 (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983), pp. xix, 453, ill. (Essays on the historical development of health care, preventive medicine, traditional medicine, personnel training, psychiatry, nutrition by Nancy Worcester, and family planning by Penny Kane.)

Dr Christopher CULLEN, Clare Hall, Cambridge, has published: 'Science and medicine in China,' in Information Sources in the History of Science and Medicine, edited by P. Corsi & P. Weinling (London: Butterworth, 1983), pp. 476-500.

Dr Felix MANN, President of the Medical Acupuncture Society, has the following book, in print: Scientific Aspects of Acupuncture, 2nd ed., London: William Heinemann, 1983. (Written for doctors.), and various others with the same publishers.

5. Indian medicine

Dr Dominik WUJASTYK, Assistant (Oriental Collections), at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, has recently published the following articles:

'Hindu Science,' in Dictionary of the History of Science, edited by W.F. Bynum, R. Porter & E.J. Browne (London: Macmillan, 1982), pp. 186-188.

'The South Asian holdings of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine,' South Asian Library Notes and Queries, 16 (1984), pp. 3-5.

'The spikes in the ears of the ascetic: an illustrated tale in Buddhism and Jainism,' Oriental Art, New Series 30 (1984), 158, 189-194, 6 ill., 1 col. (A discussion of a parallel incident in the lives of Buddha and Mahāvīra in which they are attacked and healed. Illustrated from previously unpublished manuscripts of the Kalpasūtra and Astasahasrikāprajñāpāramitāsūtra in the Wellcome collection).

'An alchemical ghost: the Rasaratnākara of Nāgārjuna,' Ambix, 31 (1984), pp. 70-83. (It is argued that Nāgārjuna never wrote a work called Rasaratnākara, and some of the

confusion surrounding the alchemical and magical works of Nāgārjuna Siddha and Nityanātha Siddha is removed.)

'La scienza veterinaria Indiana nel Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine,' *Kos*, 6 (1984), pp. 18-19, col. ill. (A brief introduction to the history of asvacikitsā or Indian farriery with illustrations from a manuscript of Nakula's *Asvacikitsā* in the Wellcome collection.)

'Ravigupta and Vāgbhata,' *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 48 (1985), pp. 74-78, ill. (A recently discovered Kashmiri manuscript of the *Astāngahrdayasamhitā* in the Wellcome collection gives new evidence suggesting a family connection between the famous doctors Ravigupta and Vāgbhata.)

and the following booklet:

The South Asian Collections of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine (London: The Wellcome Institute, 1984), pp. 16 (7 col. ill.). An illustrated guide to the Wellcome collections, describing the provenance and character of the Sanskrit, Prakrit and other South Asian manuscripts and books.

Dr Wujastyk's current projects include work on the early history of smallpox vaccination in India, Indian alchemy, the on-going gathering of materials for a survey of Sanskrit medical authors and manuscripts, and the cataloguing of the Wellcome Sanskrit and Prakrit collections. The Wellcome Institute has approved in principle a project to compile a bibliography of the history of Indian medicine. This will be commenced in 1985 and is expected to take two or three years.

Dr Tom J.S. PATTERSON, of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford, recently published the following articles:

'Science and medicine in India,' in Information Sources in the History of Science and Medicine, edited by P. Corsi & P. Weinling (London: Butterworth, 1983), pp. 457-475.

'La fabbrica del nasi,' *Kos*, 3 (April 1984), pp. 75-90, 16 ill., 1 col. (A history of rhinoplasty, the plastic surgery of the nose, discussing the origins of its techniques and the discovery by the East India Company doctors of the "Indian method" in Poona in 1793.)

Dr Patterson is currently writing: "The medical history of the East India Company and its relation to Indian medicine, 1600-1850." He is also collaborating with the team under Dr G.D. SINGHAL at Banaras Hindu University, to co-write the twelfth and last volume in the *Susruta* translation series, which is to be a synopsis of the *Susrutasamhitā* designed for the western reader.

Dr Ronald FRANKENBERG, Department of Sociology, University of Keele, Staffordshire, published the following article:

'Allopathic medicine, profession, and capitalist ideology in India,' Social Science and Medicine, 15 A.2 (March 1981), pp. 115-125.

Mr Daniel C. TABOR has studied the Ayurvedic classical tradition under Bapalal G. Vaidya in South Gujarat, in preparation for a doctoral thesis supervised by Dr Nicholas Allen, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford. He published the following article: 'Ripe and unripe: concepts of health and sickness in Ayurvedic medicine,' Social Science and Medicine, 15 B (1981), pp. 439-455.

Ms Poonam BALA is writing a doctoral thesis supervised by Dr Roger Jeffery, Department of Sociology, University of Edinburgh, under the title: "Indian medicine and the state in British India, 1800-1947."

Mr Christopher MORGAN, St. Anthony's College, Oxford, is writing a doctoral thesis supervised by Prof. B.K. Matilal, All Souls College, Oxford, under the title: "A study of the history and philosophy of an ancient Indian paradigm" (A study based on the *Carakasamhitā*). Mr Morgan is interested in the philosophy of science in general, and in particular in comparing the classificatory systems of Indian and 18th century European medicine.

Ms Helen LAMBERT is at present in Jaipur studying Rajasthani, in preparation for fieldwork on folk medicine and possession in Rajasthan. Her results will be submitted as a doctoral thesis supervised by Dr N. Allen, University of Oxford.

Dr G. Morrison CARSTAIRS, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of York, recently published:

Death of a Witch: A Village in North India 1950-1981, London: Hutchinson, 1983, pp. 176, maps.

This is a portrait of the village on which Dr Carstairs first reported in his classic *The Twice-Born* (1956), describing the response of the villagers to modernisation over a period of 31 years. Attention is given to health care and resistance to change (with the concomitant adherence to traditional healing methods), mental disturbance, and supernatural beings and magical powers. The episode which gives its title to the book concerns the beating to death by a group of villagers in 1951 of a woman believed to be a witch.

6. Tibetan medicine

Ms Marianne WINDER, consultant on Oriental medicine at the Wellcome Institute, London, is preparing a catalogue of the Wellcome collection of Tibetan manuscripts and xylographs. She recently published the following articles:

'Buddhism and Tibetology,' Bulletin of Tibetology (Gangtok: Sikkim Institute of Tibetology), New Series 1 (1984), pp. 10-13.

'Il Buddha della medicina,' *Kos*, 3 (April 1984), pp. 55-74, 13 col. ill. (On the use of Buddhist images for the healing of body and mind, illustrated from the Wellcome collection of Tibetan *Thankas*.)

Mr T.G. DUMMER, Principal of the European School of Osteopathy, London, has a book forthcoming on "Tibetan medicine and other medicines". Mr Dummer also publishes the Newsletter, Study group for Tibetan medicine (London: Jotom Educational and Secretarial Services, 1983-), a new quarterly journal, now in its third issue, for communications on current work in Tibetan medicine.

7. South-East Asian medicine

Drs M.C. RICKLEFS and P. VOORHOEVE included the Wellcome collection of six Batak manuscripts in their catalogue:

Indonesian Manuscripts in Great Britain: A Catalogue of Indonesian Languages in British Public Collections, Oxford: O.U.P., 1977, pp. xxix, 237.

This has now been updated with the addition of 28 more Batak, 11 Javanese, and 10 Malay Wellcome manuscripts in their:

'Indonesian manuscripts in Great Britain: addenda and corrigenda,' Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, 45.2 (1982), pp. 300-322.

The Wellcome collection of Malay manuscripts were also described and discussed by Drs R.F. ELLEN, M.B. HOOKER and A.C. MILNER in their article:

'The Hervey Malay collection in the Wellcome Institute,' Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 54.1 (1981), pp. 82-92.

Ms Alyson PEBERDY has been studying the medical traditions of the Tolai people of East New Britain, off Papua New Guinea, for several years, under the supervision of Dr N. Allen, Department of Social Anthropology, Oxford.

Dr Gilbert LEWIS, St. John's College, Cambridge, whose major study on medical anthropology appeared as:

Knowledge of Illness in a Sepik Society: A Study of the Gnau, New Guinea, London: Athlone Press, University of London, 1975, pp. x, 379,

is now writing a study of general aspects of medical anthropology, based on studies of New Guinea, which may appear under a title such as "Reasons for care: aspects of fact and value in medical anthropology".

Visitors to London should not miss the opportunity of visiting the Wellcome Museum for the History of Medicine, now rehoused on the top two floors of the Science Museum, South Kensington. In addition to many displays of general interest to the historian of medicine, there are excellent displays specifically on traditional Tibetan, Chinese, Indian and other Asian medical systems.

Philippines

We would like to announce the formation of the Philippines Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine. IASTAM is in the process of formally approving this new chapter. Professor Felipe M. de Leon, Jr is the President and Dr Luzviminda B. Valencia, Professor of Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines System, Quezon City, Philippines, is the Vice-President for External Affairs. The Association held a symposium in 1984, on the state of research into traditional medicine in the Philippines, which brought together anthropologists, pharmacologists, medical sociologists and clinicians.

U. K.

Lawrence I Conrad MA, PhD, has been appointed Historian of Arabic Medicine at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, from January 1985. Dr Conrad, who was until recently an Assistant Professor at the American University of Beirut, has research interests in mediaeval Near Eastern medicine, the social and intellectual history of the mediaeval Near East, mediaeval Arabic diplomatic, Arabic and Syriac historiography and the editing and translation of mediaeval texts. Amongst his many publications the following treat of medicine: "Arabic plague chronologies and treatises: social and historical factors in the formation of a literary genre," Studia Islamica, 54 (1981): 51-93; "Tā'On and Wabā': conceptions of plague and pestilence in early Islam," Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, 25 (1982): 268-307; "The Biblical tradition for the plague of the Philistines," Journal of the American Oriental Society, 104 (1984): 281-287; "Conceptions of maturation and aging in early Islam," forthcoming in Annales... His monograph The Plague in the Early Medieval Near East is also forthcoming from Princeton University Press.

North America

Professors Margaret Lock (McGill University) and Charles Leslie (University of Delaware) are calling an organizing meeting at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia (22-24 March 1985) to organize a North American Chapter of IASTAM.

At this AAS Annual Meeting, two panels will treat of traditional medicine: "Ayurveda: Historical tradition and modern practice" (Chaired by Carolyn Nordstrom, University of California-Berkeley), and "Techniques of healing in SE Asia" (Chaired by Carol Laderman, Fordham University, whose recent book is reviewed here on page 2).

The Committee on Women in Asian Studies of the Association for Asian Studies publishes an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural newsletter four times a year. Membership fees are US \$5 annually. Write: Dr Victoria Cass, Editor CWAS Newsletter, Department of East Asian Studies, Folwell Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, USA

Chinese University of Hong Kong

Nan-fang ts'ao-mu chuang A Fourth Century Flora of South-East Asia, Introduction, translation and commentaries by HUI-LIN LI, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1979, pp. x-168 (ISBN 962 201 163 2)

An Enumeration of Chinese Materia Medica by SHIU-YING HU, with editorial assistance from Y.C. KONG and Paul P.H. BUT, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1980, pp. xxiv, 287 (ISBN 962 201 189 6)

We requested these books from the publishers for review in the newsletter. Although these are not really very recent books, their review is justified by the fact that they are not only useful tools

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Portuguese in India

P. D GAITONDE Portuguese Pioneers in India, Spotlight on Medicine, Bombay: Popular Prakashan, 1983, pp. xvi-188, Rs. 150 (ISBN 0 86132 025 5)

Dr Gaitonde, a distinguished surgeon (b. 1913), received his medical education first in Goa and Bombay and later in Lisbon (from 1938). At present he lives in retirement in London, frequently visiting India and Portugal, and dedicating most of his time to studying the history of medicine and the East-West relations during the 16th century in, and around, Goa. This small book, nicely produced (with a few illustrations from 16th century books of Travels, a detailed bibliography and other useful appendices), is also surprisingly elegant in its style, and substantial in its erudition, and it provides a very good introduction to the life and works of those western physicians and apothecaries, like Garcia da Orta and Tomé Pires, who were the first westerners to be really acquainted with Indian medicine and South Asian materia medica.

for Chinese specialists, but also useful reference books for those who study other traditions of Asian medicine. Indianists and South Asian scholars, for instance, should refer to the monographies of Cardamon, Black Pepper, Sugarcane, Chebulic myrobalan, etc., in the Fourth Century Flora to put their own tradition back in its context: the vast system of export and import of spices between Eastern Asia and Southern Asia from the most ancient times.

The Enumeration of Chinese Materia Medica is much more than its title implies. Offering the Chinese names of medicines in Chinese and transliterated, and the English equivalent, the list appends the "pharmaceutical name" as well (this for 2270 entries). The scientific name of the plants involved is also available. It is obviously the accomplished work of a first-rate scholar, meant to become a Companion to all researchers in the field.

A contribution

Dr Johannes LAPING (Institut für Tropenhygiene, Im Neuenheimer Feld 324, 6900 Heidelberg 1, Germany) has submitted the following note for publication in IASTAM Newsletter.

New Scope for IASTAM Activities?
(ICTAM II, Another View)

ICTAM II is over. A new generation of IASTAM office holders (President, Secretary-General) has stepped up. And in recent years traditional systems of medicine have been receiving a little more attention (not without some struggle) in the national health policies of their respective countries. It was probably in recognition of this fact that the organizers of ICTAM II chose as the general theme of the congress "Traditional Medicines in Asian Countries and their Place in Pluralistic Health Care Systems". During four days of conference agenda, one single morning session chaired by Prof. K.N. Udupa was focussing on "Traditional Medicine in Primary Health Care". This distribution probably reflects the distribution of interests among IASTAM members.

This note is meant as an invitation to concerned IASTAM members who share the view

- that Health for All is the task of the day; and that a concept like Primary Health Care seems apt for the achievement of this;
- that the global situation demands for a revision of national and international policies, taking up as new issues: ecological, economic and social soundness of health care programmes, as well as self-reliance and self-determination of the people in this process;
- that traditional systems of health care can play a major role in the fulfilment of the task and in the context of formulating alternative strategies; and
- that IASTAM is by now a major organization that could and should take an active stand in this particular field, e.g. as a consultative body towards international as well as national and private agencies engaged in formulating and implementing health care programmes, as towards how such programmes could integrate traditional health care concepts.

I propose to set up a working group of such IASTAM members for closer contact and more frequent exchange of views and ideas during the intervals of ICTAMs, and in order to mobilize IASTAM as a whole to move in the above direction.

"Ancient Science of Life", the journal of the International Institute of Ayurveda, Coimbatore (India), could serve as a media for communication. Several editorials of this journal have taken up the above issues, however, without receiving much of a response. Moreover, AVR Educational Foundation, Coimbatore, has recently undertaken to launch a Comprehensive Rural Health Project, which is a major attempt to combine the potentials of Ayurvedic, Siddha and local traditional health care approaches, as well as of modern science, for the improvement of the health of the people in that area. The initiators of this project are in constant search for further exchange of ideas and experiences as not much has been done yet in this new direction.

IASTAM members studying traditional health cultures are aware of the preventive and health promotive, and not only curative dimensions of those traditional systems. They also see the danger of these traditional practices dying out in the near future under the impact of ever growing professionalization of medical systems. In documenting and analyzing these so far widely neglected aspects of traditional cultures, and voicing them from an appropriate platform, IASTAM members and IASTAM as a body could act as a facilitator towards the renewal of peoples' health practices and, thus, contribute towards a better achievement of health for all.

Dr Johannes LAPING

A SHORT COMMENT

Dr Johannes Laping will agree to say with us that the issues raised in his contribution are controversial among IASTAM members. IASTAM was founded to be an association primarily and only of scholars and others interested in the study of traditional Asian medicine. We are happy to unite a wide range of people who are not necessarily supporters of traditional Asian medicine. It shall be the goal of IASTAM to support all studies, and facilitate as much as possible the exchange of research results, as far as they are related to traditional Asian medicine. The aim to integrate traditional Asian medicine and to preserve ancient traditions may be a legitimate goal for many individual members of IASTAM, but it cannot, however, be the goal of IASTAM as an organization. IASTAM Newsletter is open to all of us and it may well be used to search for expert advice concerning specific policy issues in traditional Asian medicine, but IASTAM as an organization should remain an association of people holding diverse views and pursuing different ends.



European Chapter

The following news are reported by the Secretary of IASTAM Europe: Dr T. E. MEINDERSMA, Felland 50, 9755 TC Onnen, The Netherlands. Membership of IASTAM is combined with that of IASTAM Europe. All members of IASTAM domiciled in Europe are automatically affiliated to the European chapter. Write to Dr Meindersma to obtain the regional information bulletin.

Conferences to be held in Europe are listed in the "News of conferences" column. Dr Meindersma brings to our readers' attention the San Marino congress (8-11 June 1985), the SOAS conference in London (28 June 1985), and the Social Sciences and Medicine conference near Helsinki (8-12 July 1985).

INSTITUTIONS

All Medical Consulting, P.O. Box 710133, 8000 München 71, West Germany is a firm engaged in the development of new drugs borrowed from natural sources and traditional medicine. (See already the IASTAM Newsletter No. 5 p. 5 under the name of Dr von Keudell.)

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Subash Ranade, Basic Principles of Ayurveda, Saarbrücken, 1985, can be ordered from Mr W. Kremling, Narayan GmbH & Co. AG, Taubfeld 17, 6600 Saarbrücken, West Germany, for DM 58.

The Encyclopaedia of Indian Medicine, edited by Prof. S.K. Ramachandra Rao, Bombay: Popular Prakashan, will be published in six volumes in this and the next year; a European edition is considered concurrently.

Note to all members of IASTAM

Beginning with 1985, members of IASTAM are asked to pay annual dues of US \$15 to the treasurer of IASTAM, Prof. Margaret Lock, Montreal. The newsletter is scheduled to appear regularly twice a year from now on. Annual dues should be paid before July 1, in order to guarantee the continued mailing of the newsletter. IASTAM members living in countries with restrictions on foreign exchange may pay their dues to their regional chapters (if one has been founded in their country already) in local currencies, and have their dues paid collectively through their chapters to the international association. Those chapters that make use of collective payments for their members should send a list of names and addresses of their individual members to the treasurer of IASTAM.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Yet the atmosphere seemed invariably cheerful and enthusiastic. We received many minor criticisms on points of detail from the members, but nobody to my knowledge declared that the conference was not worth while. The quality of the papers varied considerably; some were quite brilliant, and others definitely less so. Probably the most surprising paper came from an Indian dentist who explained his method of painless tooth extraction without anaesthetics. He wanted to give a demonstration, but (putting aside legal complications) nobody could be found to volunteer as his patient. Unfortunately, after the conference, hardly any of the speakers presented us with the text of their papers, and this is the main reason why the publication of the proceedings of the conference has proved impossible.

Despite setbacks, the first ICTAM must be counted as a success. It ended on a note of real enthusiasm, when, at the final general meeting, IASTAM was founded. Charles Leslie accepted the secretaryship without undue arm-twisting, and he, more than anyone, has been responsible for ensuring the survival of the Association, in the face of difficulties, financial and otherwise, which it would be tedious to discuss.

Now, after the Surabaya conference, the future of IASTAM seems assured. With a membership much larger than that of the first, and held in much pleasanter surroundings and on a much more lavish scale, the second ICTAM has served to establish IASTAM as something more than a merely ephemeral organization, but a body of dedicated scholars who have something very significant to give to the world of learning. Charles Leslie and myself, who were, so to speak, the midwives of the Association, have relinquished our posts to new and younger officers, who will no doubt develop it in fresh directions and will ensure that it will grow in importance with the years. As the second ICTAM broke up I felt very proud of the indirect hand I had had in bringing about such a successful and pleasant gathering of scholars, so efficiently and warm-heartedly organized by our Indonesian hosts.

* Dr Kenneth G. ZYSK is now at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Victoria College, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 1K7, Canada.

** Ms Jacqueline Holyoake PARKINSON, Dept. of Arts and History, Australian National University, Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia, is Associate Administrator of IASTAM.

Conferences

8-11 June 1985 The First World Congress on Yoga and Ayurveda, Man, Medicine, Society, San Marino (Italy). Professor K.N. Udupa is Congress President, Mr G.F. Barabino General Secretary, Dr Suresh Kumar Co-Ordinator. Organized by the International Association for Ayurveda & Naturopathy, Villa Era, Via Rivetti 61, 13069 Vigliano Biellese, Italy. The Journal of Research and Education in Indian Medicine (B 29/19 Lanka, P.O. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005, India) shall award a gold medal for the best scientific paper presented at the special award session.

28 June 1985 South Asia Research Conference at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Room 253 (South Asia Centre), Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP, UK, on the themes "Medical systems in the South Asian context", and "Cultures and inequalities in South Asia".

September 1985 Workshop on Indian Medicine, London

A workshop on the history of Indian medicine will be held at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP, UK, organized by Dr Dominik Wujastyk (Associate Secretary of IASTAM). This is a sequel to the meeting called by Dr G. Jan Meulenbeld at the State University of Groningen in October 1983 under the title "Priorities in the Study of Indian Medicine" (See IASTAM Newsletter Number 5 on page 8). Further details are available from Dr Wujastyk.

19-21 October 1985 4th International Congress of Oriental Medicine, Kyoto (Japan). Organized by the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine. Secretariat: C/o International Congress Service, Inc., 5F New Kyoto Center Building, Higashi-shikokoji, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600, Japan.

10-12 July 1986 9th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Heidelberg (W. Germany). Professor Beatrix Pflleiderer-Lutze (Seminar für Völkerkunde, Rothenbaumchaussee 64a, 2000 Hamburg 13, W. Germany) is organizing a panel on "The Cultural Context of Health Care in South Asia" divided into three subpanels: Childcare and medicine in South Asia, Health care, medical traditions and traditional medicine, The history of psychiatry in India. Secretariat: Mrs Stephanie Zingel-Avé Lallemand, Südasiens Institut, Im Neuenheimer Feld 330, 6900 Heidelberg, W. Germany.

To join IASTAM

APPLICATION to join the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF TRADITIONAL ASIAN MEDICINE. Enclose a US \$15 fee and mail to: Prof. Margaret Lock, IASTAM Treasurer
Department of Humanities and Social Studies
McIntyre Medical Sciences Building
McGill University
Montreal, P.Q. H3G 1Y6, Canada

Name

Address

Institutional training

Institutional affiliation

IASTAM Newsletter

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The Editor urges readers of the Newsletter to send him information about themselves, about conferences, institutions and research projects, and bibliographies of recent and forthcoming publications, for inclusion in the next issue. He will be pleased to answer all mail and queries.

Write to:

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