

Studies on Indian Medical History

GRONINGEN ORIENTAL STUDIES

volume II

edited by

H.T. Bakker • A.W. Entwistle
T. Goudriaan • G.J. Meulenbeld

Editorial Secretary

H.T. Bakker

Advisory Board

H.W. Bodewitz, *Utrecht* • H.J.W. Drijvers, *Groningen*
R.E. Emmerick, *Hamburg* • R.F. Gombrich, *Oxford*
J.C. Heesterman, *Leiden* • Ch. Vaudeville, *Paris*

Egbert Forsten
Groningen 1987

Studies on Indian Medical History

*Papers presented at the
International Workshop on the Study of Indian Medicine
held at the
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine
2-4 September 1985*

Edited by

G. Jan Meulenbeld and Dominik Wujastyk

Egbert Forsten
Groningen 1987

Designed and typeset by D. Wujastyk, at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London, using PCTEX 1.5F and L^AT_EX 2.09. Output on an HP LaserJet series II printer with Computer Modern typefaces.

Published with the aid of a grant from the Wellcome Trust.

Cover illustration reproduced by courtesy of the Wellcome Institute Library, London

Cover design: Ruud Hoogman

Exclusive distributor for India and the Indian sub-continent: Motilal Banarsidass, Bungalow Road, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi 110 007, India.

CIP-DATA KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK, DEN HAAG

Studies

Studies on Indian medical history : papers presented at the International Workshop on the Study of Indian Medicine held at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 2-4 September 1985 / ed. by G. Jan Meulenbeld and Dominik Wujastyk. – Groningen : Forsten. – (Groningen Oriental Studies ; vol. 2)

With ref.

ISBN 90-6980-015-2

SISO 602 UDC 61(540)(091)

Subject heading: Indian medicine ; history.

Copyright © 1987, Egbert Forsten, Groningen, The Netherlands

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Respectfully dedicated to the memory of

Vayaskara N.S. Mooss

a great exponent of *āyurveda*

Contents

Preface

v

I The classical tradition

ix

1 Reflections on the basic concepts of Indian pharmacology

G. Jan Meulenbeld

1

The basic concepts 5

Taste: *Rasa* 5

Post-digestive taste: *Vipāka* 9

Potency: *Virya* 11

Specific action: *Prabhāva* 14

2 On the identification of a Vedic plant

Rahul Peter Das

19

The case of *pāṭā* 21

Boars, truffles and *sóma* 25

Eagles and high places 27

Mythical and magical alternatives 30

Further references in the Kashmiri *Atharvaveda* 33

Some synonyms 37

Red tubers? 40

3 Carakasamhitā, Śārīrasthāna I and Vaiśeṣika philosophy

Antonella Comba

43

Previous accounts 43

Mind (*manas*) and its relation to self (*ātman*) 48

The *ātmalingas* 54

Upadhā 57

Moksa 58

4	Epilepsy according to the <i>Rgyud-bṣi</i>	
	<i>R. E. Emmerick</i>	63
	Introductory remarks	63
	Text of <i>Rgyud-bṣi</i> iii. 79	70
	Translation of <i>Rgyud-bṣi</i> iii. 79	71
	Text and translation of Vāgbhaṭa	73
5	Vaidūrya	
	<i>Marianne Winder</i>	91
	The Tibetan Medicine Buddha	91
	Beryl, cat's eye or lapis lazuli?	92
	In the Pāli canon	94
	Something very special	98
	Chrysoberyl and aquamarine	99
	Chinese interpretations	99
	Babylonian appreciation of lapis lazuli	100
	Conclusion	101
6	Les carrés magiques dans la médecine indienne	
	<i>Arion Roşu</i>	103
	Littérature āyurvédique	104
	Sources non médicales	108
	Croyances populaires	110
	Tradition islamique	111
7	On <i>Mādhvacikitsā</i>	
	<i>Johannes Laping</i>	113
II	Colonial interactions	117
8	Indian and European practitioners of medicine from the sixteenth century	
	<i>T. J. S. Patterson</i>	119
	The Portuguese in India	120
	The Dutch in the East Indies	121
	The English East India Company	122
	The eighteenth century	124
	The Enlightenment	126
	Westernisation	128

The establishment of Indian medicine 129

9 ‘A Pious Fraud’: The Indian claims for pre-Jennerian smallpox vaccination

Dominik Wujastyk 131
Calvi Virumbon and the *Madras Courier* of 1819 133
A Brahmin from Oude and a Doctor of Bisnopore 137
Bruce on the Persian evidence 140
French and Italian encyclopaedias 141
The early British medical historians 144
The introduction of vaccination into India 150
Resistance to vaccination 151
The preparation of vernacular tracts 154
Lord Ampthill and the King debate 158
A closer look at Virumbon’s verses 164
Conclusion 165

10 The establishment of ‘Native Lunatic Asylums’ in early nineteenth-century British India

Waltraud Ernst 169
The 1818 inquiry in Bengal 171
Native lunatic asylums in Bengal in the 1830s and early 1840s . 187
The inquiries into the kind and the results of treatment in Native Lunatic Asylums (1852–1854) 191

III Modern observations 205

11 *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban in perspective: an evaluative account

T. P. Labadie and K. T. D. De Silva 207
New directions 221

12 The results of an analysis based on a video of consultations in five āyurvedic medical practices

D. von Schmädell and B. Hochkirchen 225
The doctor–patient relationship 225
Methodology 227
The doctors’ and patients’ shares of the consultation 228
The phases of the consultation 229

The phases in detail	229
Further analyses	231
Conclusion	232
13 Contrasting treatment of witches in three communities in Mewar	
<i>G. M. Carstairs</i>	233
Sujarupa	233
Delwara	234
Bhils	235
14 Dialogue in research on traditional Indian medicine	
<i>Johannes Laping</i>	239
The contributors	243