

Medical History

The History of Medical Journals In India

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Science is a branch of knowledge which has always flourished due to the confluence of brilliant minds. For thinkers and researchers to communicate among themselves, journals form an indispensable link-road. The concept of scientific journals in India is entirely an offshoot of European influence. Medieval India had some literature related to various scientific disciplines, including medicine. But there were two problems. Firstly, in the Hindu society, the right to knowledge was entirely a privilege of the upper caste. So, there was not much dissemination of knowledge. Secondly, the books written in the medieval period were mostly a mixture of religion and mythology interspersed with some scientific facts. Thus, it was often difficult to find a secular treatise dealing with pure science.

The concept of publishing scientific journals for the intellectual minds of the society came only after establishment of European rule. In Europe, the concept of scientific journals had started by the eighteenth century. The boundary between the various disciplines were fluid at that time and any "Science" journal at that time would have a mixture of articles dealing with say, physics, medicine and geology one after another and even some article on Philosophy or architecture. One example is the **Edinburgh Journal of Science**, published between 1824 and 1832. In one issue of this journal (1825), one can find the following successive articles: -

1. Observations on the Vision of Impressions on the Retina, in reference to certain supposed Discoveries respecting Vision
2. An Account of a Plant allied to the Genus Piper
3. On the Theory of the Existence of a Sixth Sense in Fishes

So, the successive articles were on ophthalmology, Botany and Fishery Science!!

However, as the treasure-trove of knowledge in each discipline expanded, the need was felt to publish journals dedicated to particular branches of science and medical science was no exception. Some of the early medical journals included *Medical Essays and Observations* (UK, started, 1731) and *Medical Repository* (USA, 1797).

Right after the commencement of the trend for medical journals in Europe, a similar phenomenon took place in colonies like India. In those early days, there

were almost no person trained in Western Medical Science in this country and thus, the first Indian medical journals were published by Europeans, for European professionals, in European language. We will discuss a few of those here.

The Early Journals:

1. Medical Board Proceedings (1786-1858) :

This was not exactly a medical journal in the strict sense. This was mainly an official medical document. It was hand-written and mainly for official use. The document would be kept in government archives for reference. At that time, there were very few people conversed with English language in India and even if this document was published and circulated, very few people would actually be able to read it. While there were some scientific discussions in these documents, the majority were official topics like medical expense or onset of any new sickness among the British troops.

These proceedings have considerable historical value. For example, the 3rd April 1787 proceedings contain the first mention of a lunatic asylum in Calcutta. The outbreaks of various diseases in Indian cities are also documented in these pages.

2. Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta (TMPSC) :

This was the first proper medical journal-like publication in India. It started in 1825. In 1823 (March 1st), under the directive of the new colonial government, the Medical and Physical Society was established in Calcutta. This society had two objectives. Firstly, to collect new papers related to discoveries in Medicine including indigenous medical system. These papers were read and then the proceedings of those seminars were published in the TMPSC. Secondly, this society also had the objective of forming a scientific medical library, the first of its kind in India. The publishers were Messrs Thacker and Co., St Andrew's Library, and printers were the Baptist Mission Press. Since the Christian missionaries were the first to establish printing press in India, naturally they were the publishers of the first medical science journals.

Why was this journal established? In their preface they wrote :

"The immediate object was to give a concentric impulse to the detached members of the service, and

afford them augmented facility of information, as well as a new excitement to emulative exertion." Also, they wrote, "Whatever advantage may be realized from enquiries thus favourably instituted, will be shared by us with our brethren of the West; but some benefits may be expected from an improved circulation of useful information amongst ourselves, which may be regarded as exclusively our own."

Thus, right from the beginning, this journal was aimed to provide for exchange and dissemination of knowledge. The British government had then formed the Medical Board of Bengal. Members of this board acted as patrons of this journal. Also, the government of Bengal provided free postage to this journal.

This journal covered topics pertinent to the local population and not just European diseases. For example, some of the topics covered in its issues included:

- An Essay on Kushta, or Leprosy as Known to the Hindus
- Snake bite
- On the Exhibition of Phosphorous in Cholera Morbus

Although formed by the European doctors, this society had Indian members too: **Radhakanta Deb, Madhusudan Gupta, Kalikrishna Bahadur and Ramkamal Sen**. These Indian members wrote a few articles on Indian Medical system in the journal.

However, this journal was short-lived. It was published once annually in 1825, 1826 and 1827. Then it was published every second year. In 1835, the name was changed to Quarterly Journal of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Society (QJCMPS). By that time, the first Medical school of Asia, Calcutta Medical College had been established and professors of that institution took up the work of editing. H. H. Goodeve and W. B. O'Shaughnessy, two illustrious teachers of this college were the editors. The journal had colour plates with clinical images. It ceased publication in 1845. Now, it is notoriously difficult to get reprint copies of this journal. The author of this article (Rudrajit Paul) could only find a few scraps of information online.

This journal had a surprisingly smart editing, which can be considered modern even for today. It was divided into three parts: -

- **Part-I** : This had the original articles and case reports
- **Part-II** : This had reprint of medical articles from Europe. Not only English but also French and German articles were reprinted with translations
- **Part-III** : This had contemporary news. For example, the news of a plague outbreak was mentioned in one issue.

Some interesting articles published in this journal included

- Post-mortem report of William IV, the monarch of England
- Case of Tetanus, Cured by a Preparation of Hemp (This was probably the first publication of medical use of Cannabis)
- Observations on the fever which prevailed at Howrah during the months of June and July, 1834 (one of the earliest descriptions of malaria in Bengal)

Some pictures from this journal are given below (Figs 1 to 3):

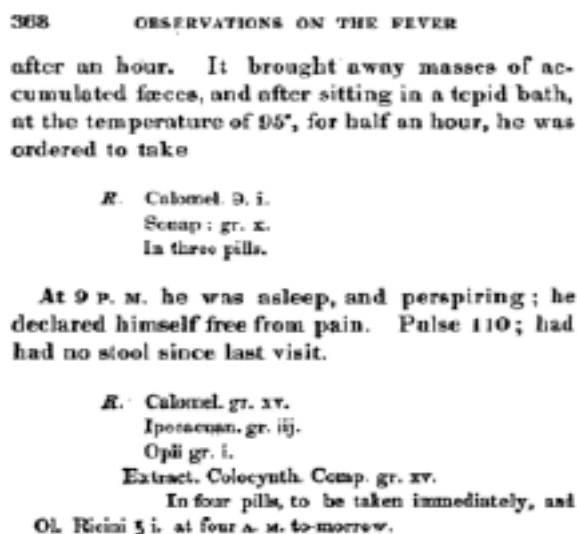


Fig 1: A page from Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta (TMPSC) showing treatment protocol for fever

C A S E
OR
ARROW-WOUND OF THE HEAD.
By A. STORM, Esq.
Presented by the Medical Board.

CAPTAIN —, while on service, received on the morning of the 24th of October two arrow wounds, one in the head, and the other in the back. For some marches the detachment was without tents, and exposed during the night to heavy rain. On the morning of the 27th I met them returning. Captain — informed me, that he felt slightly stunned when wounded, and that the arrow could not be withdrawn without force; but he did not complain of much uneasiness. The wound was in the middle of the occipital bone, and was partially closed. We reached cantonments on the evening of the 28th. On the 31st; as he complained more of his head, and felt feverish, he was reported sick on the 1st of November; had a purgative on that day, and in the evening was bled to syncope, and next day 50 leeches were applied to the head.—2nd. He felt greatly better, and his bowels had been acted on, two or three times; the wound appeared a little puffy; it was opened with a lancet, and a poultice applied: tongue very foul and loaded.—3rd. Complained of head-ache; tongue still foul;

Fig 2: A case report from TMPSC: Arrow wound, treated with leeches

No. 8.

A letter from Dr. SPILLSBURY, describing two cases of Severe Wounds penetrating the Abdominal Cavity, occurring in Natives.—Addressed to W. TWINING, Esq.

The extreme facility, with which Natives of this country recover from wounds of all kinds, cannot have escaped the notice of the profession. Two severe ones both penetrating the cavity of the Abdomen, have occurred to me within a few days of each other; a slight account of which you may perhaps deem worthy of laying before the Society.

The first was that of a grasscutter, a stout healthy young man about 25, whom I was called to, on the evening of the 5th of June last, having just then been gored by a spotted deer. The horn appeared to have passed just over the spermatic cord of the left side, entering the inguinal canal and penetrating into the cavity of the abdomen upwards and inwards (dorsad), nearly in the direction of the canal.

Fig 3: Letter to the editor in TMPSC, describing two cases of penetrating abdominal injury by horns of animals: Deer and Buffalo

3. Indian journal of medical science (IJMS):

This was another journal which was published in 1834. After two years, it was renamed India Journal of Medical and Physical Science (IJMPS) and publication continued till 1845. This journal was published by the personal efforts of two individuals, J. Grant and J.T. Pearson. The main aim of this journal was to save time of expenses of the medical men of this country, so that they would not need to import European periodicals. Also, this journal was devised not to foster scientific discussions, but to discuss "on the causes, symptoms, and treatment of maladies, to which they are but too liable, when exposed at detached stations and factories, remote from immediate medical aid." This journal was meant to cater to both medical men and veterinarians.

This journal was also divided into many sections: original articles, medical topography, hospital reports, native remedies, medical jurisprudence, entomology, medical botany, biographies: just to name a few. Thus, there was something for every reader and even there was a section on medical issues written in non-technical language for the lay person.

There is a bit of history behind publication of this new journal, IJMS. The earlier journal, TMPSC concentrated only on pure scientific matters. But in that society, there were people like J. Grant, who wanted to widen the scope of the journal and publish articles related to other aspects of the profession. However, this idea was strongly opposed by many influential members of the society, including the president Mr Wilson. When Mr Grant became the Apothecary General of Calcutta, he took a great risk and started the IJMS on his own, separate from the

Medical and Physical society of Calcutta.

At first, this new journal faced opposition from many learned citizens. They had to do all the editorial work on their own, including review of the submitted articles. Since this was an English journal, the circulation remained confined within the European society of Calcutta. There were many interesting articles like

- On the Fever (that prevailed in Calcutta During the Months of September, October, November and December 1833): written by a surgeon at Fort William

- Vaccination (this was written by an Indian, Radhakanta Deb)

- Blood-letting as a treatment for cholera

- The Cerebral Development of Rajah Rammohun Roy (a particularly important and significant article; This was reprinted from Phrenological Journal, London): at that time, Phrenology, or the study of skull anatomy to deduce personality and genius was a very popular pastime

- There were many hospital reports of interesting cases at the PG hospital of Calcutta

In 1836, the journal was renamed, as mentioned earlier and its motto was also changed:

...."we shall endeavour to avoid all invidious distinctions or partialities we shall not fail to submit, in respectful terms to the notice of the ruling authorities, suggestions tending to benefit not only individual, but the medical profession at large"

Thus, in addition to fostering scientific discussion, *this journal also wanted to take part in policy making.* At inception, many intellectuals of Calcutta were sceptical of such a private journal and commented that it would soon fade into oblivion. However, that did not happen and the journal soon gained popularity. Some issues were sent to Europe and USA to get comments and approval. The setting up of the first medical college of India in 1835 also gave a further boost to this journal. By 1838, it had a monthly circulation of 400 copies, which was an extra-ordinary feat for a medical journal, written in English, in a colonial city at that time.

In 1843, Dr Eveleigh of Dharmatala area became the editor. He set the price at 16 rupees per annum. However, due to failing health, he had to leave India soon. After that, there was no one to continue the official works and publication of the journal stopped. One interesting article of IJMS is mentioned here (Fig 4).

4. The Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Bombay (TMPSB):

This journal came into being in 1838, 13 years after the Calcutta journal. Similar to Calcutta, a Medical and Physical society had been established in Bombay and this society started its own journal. This journal wanted to

The following sketches will convey to the reader an accurate general idea of the appearance of the head.



The dimensions of the cast, and the cerebral development are as follows:

DIMENSIONS IN INCHES.	
Greatest circumference of Head, (measuring horizontally over Individuality, Destructiveness, and Philoprogenitiveness),	24
From Occipital Spine to Individuality, over the top of the Head,	15
Ear to Ear vertically over the top of the head, (measuring from upper margin of the meatus),	14
Philoprogenitiveness to Individuality, in a straight line,	8
Concentrativeness to Comparison,	7
From Ear to Philoprogenitiveness,	4
Individuality,	5
Benevolence,	6
Veneration,	6
Firmness,	6
Destructiveness to Destructiveness,	6
Secretiveness to Secretiveness,	6
Cautiousness to Cautiousness,	4
Ideality to Ideality,	4
Constructiveness to Constructiveness,	5
Mastoid process to Mastoid process,	5

Fig 4: The Phrenological analysis of cast of the skull of RamMohan Roy, as published in Phrenological Journal and reproduced in IJMS, Calcutta

promote medical research which was relevant for Indian conditions. Although all the editors were British, this journal stressed on medical conditions resulting from changes in geography, climate or food habits in both Europeans and the Indians. One example of this approach was the article, "The manner of rearing children of Europeans in India", which discussed the paediatric diseases prevalent among European children in Indian conditions.

Dr Morehead, the editor, stressed on the need to develop a scientific medical education system in India. He also felt the need to develop modifications of medical practice suited to Indian conditions.

The journal was at first printed by The American Mission Press of Bombay. After 1851, printing was done at the Bombay Education Society Press. Some important articles of this journal are mentioned below:

- Report upon the Cases of Tetanus in the JamsetjeeJeejeebhoy Hospital, from January, 1845 to December 1851
- Reports on the plague epidemics in different parts of Bombay province
- Medical History of the Central Schools of Bombay for the Five Years Ending the 1st July 1852; Including a Visitation of Measles Contains Some

Useful Illustrations of Infantile Disease

The journal was in circulation much longer compared to the earlier Calcutta journal and continued till the first or second decade of Twentieth century. Some glimpses from this journal are presented in figures 5 to 8 below.

NATIVE TROOPS AT AHMEDABAD, FROM 1841 TO 1852. Monthly Ratio of Admissions and Deaths.

Month.	FEVER.			DYSENTERY.			DIARRHOEA.			CHOLERA.			SYPHILIS.			ALL DISEASES.		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
January	24.39	0.20	7.41	3.52	0.13	37.46	3.17	..	..	0.51	0.09	242.71	0.96	..	..	103.86	0.90	0.69
February	40.82	0.92	16.27	1.56	..	..	1.70	0.00	51.99	1.19	0.41	218.72	0.25	..	..	62.25	1.50	15.08
March	55.59	0.32	3.94	2.82	..	..	1.57	..	..	9.21	1.19	497.27	0.08	0.04	460.0	81.20	1.20	10.17
April	39.84	0.30	0.74	1.20	..	..	1.18	0.01	23.80	1.42	0.02	437.5	..	..	..	39.50	1.14	14.08
May	40.80	0.25	5.50	2.27	..	..	2.50	..	..	7.72	0.55	409.87	0.54	..	..	65.77	0.91	65.50
June	66.50	0.26	3.94	1.44	0.17	131.25	2.04	0.00	11.69	1.18	0.90	233.35	0.08	..	..	50.25	1.30	10.16
July	34.75	0.90	7.50	1.23	..	..	3.93	0.04	13.21	9.91	0.79	230.0	0.26	..	..	85.32	1.29	14.94
August	57.80	0.25	4.47	3.45	0.00	35.0	4.45	..	..	1.64	0.24	200.0	0.54	..	..	106.41	0.90	8.27
September	106.12	0.23	5.39	3.61	0.04	10.00	1.21	0.04	28.25	0.21	0.00	400.0	0.26	..	..	135.12	0.52	2.69
October	124.81	0.95	1.42	1.56	..	..	1.68	..	..	0.12	0.00	608.00	0.21	0.04	148.82	289.00	0.93	3.08
November	122.46	0.44	3.20	3.20	0.00	49.50	1.26	..	..	1.23	0.00	415.41	0.18	0.04	500.0	176.00	1.20	6.78
December	57.20	0.41	4.73	0.11	0.04	0.00	0.18	..	..	0.18	0.00	800.0	0.14	..	..	131.81	0.70	2.00

A Admissions to 1,000 of Strength. B Deaths to 1,000 of Strength. C Deaths to 1,000 of Admissions.

Fig 5: A chart showing the monthly mortality and morbidity among troops in Ahmedabad in 1841



No. 11.

Fig 6: Painting of a snake in an article about poisonous snakes of Sindh region. This snake was killed in a military barrack in 1863

Case of attempted Suicide of a Sepoy by Fire-arms. By T. M. LOWNDS, M.D., Assistant Surgeon.

Presented July 1853.

Fig 7: A case report published in the journal

No. 26.

A Case of Twins, in which the Birth of the second Child was obstructed by the protrusion of a Hand by the side of the Head. By Mr. ATMARAM PANDORUNG, Graduate of the Grant Medical College.

Presented by the Grant College Medical Society.

Early in the morning of the 2nd of March 1833 I was called to see a Mahatta woman in her 8th labour, residing in Gligasin. She was about 28 years of age, of rather spare constitution. I found her sitting on the floor, with her legs stretched out. She was supported in this position by an attendant sitting behind. Before her lay a full-grown newly-born child. It was wrapped up in a piece of cloth, and was not separated from the placenta, which was still within the uterus. A midwife in attendance stated that there was another child in the womb, but that the pains being feeble, it could not be delivered, and listed that some medicines were required to excite effective pains. The size of the abdomen was such as to indicate the possibility of there being a second child. I proposed that first of all the infant already born should be separated; but the lady was quite opposed to the usual mode of procedure of the people of this country in such cases, and associated

Fig 8: Another case report published in the journal by an Indian Medical graduate

5. Madras Quarterly Medical Journal (MQMJ):

This was another short-lived journal (1839-43). This was the brainchild of a famous surgeon of the Madras region. The aims of the journal were :

“to bring before the profession authentic reports on the principal diseases to which the Europeans were subjected to in India and the investigation of the diseases prevailing amongst the native population”

This journal also discussed the herbal remedies used by indigenous practitioners for various diseases. Also, it published reprints of papers from other branches of science related to medicine.

It was a Quarterly journal and published by Messers J.B. Pharaoh of Madras. The journal was mainly circulated among army medical officers. In the very first volume itself (1839), the importance of statistics in medical research had been stressed in the preface. An interesting point to note is the instruction of the journal regarding the sections into which an original article was expected to be divided. The sections, **as given in the preface of the 1839 issue**, are mentioned below:

- Topographical description of the military barrack
- Condition of buildings etc in the cantonment
- Diet
- Clothing, bedding and nature of duty
- Recreational exercise
- Numbers of European and native troops
- Endemic diseases
- Description of the cases/epidemic
- Age-wise mortality
- Vaccination status
- Mode of treatment used

As this instruction manual makes clear, this journal wanted to get a whole description of any disease,

including the topographical and social history. This was an exceptional approach at that time and shows the level of erudition of the editor. The following is an article from that journal describing treatment for fever (Fig 9).

Treatment. On the setting in of the cold stage, especially if any precursory symptoms marked its approach, an opiate with a few drops of sulphuric æther was administered, with a view either of checking it altogether, or of shortening the cold stage: occasionally it produced the former effect, more frequently the latter. In the hot stage where the head-ache was severe, it was sometimes necessary to apply leeches to the temples, but it was rarely requisite to have recourse to general bleeding. Purgatives were almost always used in the first instance, to clear the alimentary canal, and to pave the way for the bark. Where there was much heat of skin, a combination of diaphoretics and purgatives, as the liqr: acetat: ammoniac and sulphat: magnesiæ, or calomel and James' powder, were attended with benefit;—But in putting a stop to a return of the paroxysms, our chief dependence was placed in the quinine or bark, which rarely if ever deceived us. In the milder cases, where the stomach would admit of it, the bark was used in the form of decoction or powder;—But in more serious or complicated cases, or where nausea and gastric irritability were present, the quinine was used, in doses of

Fig 9 : treatment of fever, as published in the MQMJ in 1839; as seen here, opiate was used, leeches were applied on the forehead, purgatives were used in high fever as was something called “James’ Powder”

In another report, the rise in venereal diseases among British troops in India has been reported (Fig 10).

The number of admissions of venereal in the first three quarters of last year (1837) were

1st Quarter.....	610
2d Quarter.....	540
3d Quarter.....	576

In the corresponding periods of this year (1838) they have been

1st Quarter.....	577
2d Quarter.....	702
3d Quarter.....	599

Shewing an increase of 150 in these last 3 quarters.

Fig 10: Table showing the military personnel admitted with venereal disease in 1837 and 1838

At that time, there were frequent disease outbreaks among the European colonizers. One such report of a dysentery epidemic is given below (Fig 11).

There were other short-lived medical journals in Madras like the Madras Journal of Medical Science (MJMS) (1851-54) and Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science (MQJMS) (1860-1869). Many teachers of the illustrious Madras Medical College were associated with these journals.

6. Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science (MQJMS): This was a short-lived Journal but had some historically important articles. Some of the writers in

"The disease," continues Mr. H. in a subsequent part of his report, "which is now found so generally to afflict the European Soldiers, and with such fatal visitation, is Dysentery combined with a scorbutic taint of constitution. The disease does not appear to possess any other striking peculiarity in its character than the extreme fatality that attends it, and which may be reasonably accounted for from its combination with scurvy, aggravated by the previously debilitated and exhausted constitutions of its victims. When the patient does not sink rapidly under the disease, he falls into a Dropsical state, the swelling commencing in the feet and extending upwards, when the belly becomes tumid, respiration laborious, deglutition difficult, the countenance bloated, and his sufferings continue to increase, until terminated by death."

Fig 11: Description of an epidemic among European soldiers in MQMJ

this journal were personal physicians to the then Indian Maharajas (rulers of native princely states). One such person was Edward J. Waring, physician to the King of Travancore. He wrote some important articles like:

- Notes on Some of the Indigenous Medical Plants of India
- Notes on the Affection Called 'Burning of the Feet'

The MQJMS had some important articles. For example, in one article of Volume 2 of this journal, there is mention of an attempt to grow the Cinchona plant in India (Figure 11A).

THE CINCHONA IN INDIA.

In our October number (page 491, Vol. I.) we alluded to the mission of Mr. Clements Markham in introducing into this country the quinine yielding plants of South America, and promised to keep our readers informed of the progress of the experiment then about to be made.

We regret to learn that the plants brought by Mr. Markham have all perished. They suffered so much from exposure to cold, in his journey across the Cordilleras, that very few of them survived the voyage to England, and from thence overland to the Western coast. Cuttings were made by Mr. Melvor from some of the most promising looking plants, and it was hoped that these might be propagated; but by the latest accounts, we understand that all have perished. A second supply of young plants of the grey and yellow bark, have lately been received, as well as seeds. The plants, it is understood, are in a very unsatisfactory condition, but there is every hope that the supply of seeds will enable Mr. Markham to establish the practicability of growing the cinchona in this country. Mr. Markham has recently stated in a letter to the "Madras Times" that a further supply of plants and seeds is expected from the Ecuador, and that arrangements have been made with duly qualified agents, to continue sending supplies of both, so long as may be necessary. Attempts will at the same time be made to naturalize the cinchona in the Hills of Jamaica, and Ceylon.

Fig 11A: Article about the initial attempts to grow Cinchona plant in South India

This journal also published reprints of articles from other European countries. For example, when Dr Virchow of Germany was collecting data on leprosy, this journal published an appeal (Figure 12) to the readers for information.

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE HISTORY OF LEPROSY. BY PROFESSOR RUD. VIRCHOW OF BERLIN.

"It is now several months since I appealed to physicians, historians and travellers to assist me in composing a history of leprosy (*Lepros Arabum, Elephantiasis Græcorum*), and I must gratefully acknowledge having received very abundant contributions from many quarters. I have already published a portion of those observations which have especial reference to leprosy in Germany, in the 18th volume of my Archives for Pathological Anatomy and Physiology, and for Clinical Medicine; other communications are in the press and will appear in the 19th volume of the Archives. Many other facts which relate to foreign countries, and to questions specially of medical, geographical, linguistic or civilizational interest, I must put aside for the present, on account of their too great bulk.

"Meanwhile, however, I cannot dispense with the continual assistance of other investigators, and since a personal correspondence cannot be carried on with unknown friends, I once more choose the way of publicity. If there is still any occasion to refer to the great importance of the subject, a glance at the excellent monograph, which Dr. Aug. Hirsch has published concerning leprosy in the second part, which has just appeared, of his Manual of Historico-geographical Pathology, will speedily bring conviction to the mind of everybody. A malady, which once pervaded the whole world, which even now attacks thousands in every quarter of the globe, and to the ravages of which the most ancient historical records bear witness, is certainly worthy of the most zealous study.

Fig 12: The appeal in MQJMS for information about Leprosy

7. Indian medical gazette (IMG): This Medical journal was founded in 1866 by Dr David Boyes Smith, Deputy Surgeon general of the Indian Medical Service, the first sanitary commissioner to the government of Bengal and later, Principal of Medical College, Calcutta. It was started in Calcutta as a monthly medical journal on January 1st, 1866. In its first issue, the journal announced that "our pages should be the medium of really practical knowledge". Many people, remembering the fate of earlier medical journals in India, were sceptical of the longevity of this new journal. But this journal continued till 1955 and is fully indexed in the PubMed archives online.

The first writers were mostly British. There is a very small statistical article (Figure 13) by one Bengali author in the first issue.

Also, they published articles on Indian system of Medicine, like the article on Indigenous drugs of India by Kanai Lal Dey. Some issues of the journal discussed recently published books on medical science (almost all European) (Figures 14 and 15)

This journal is a valuable resource for any medical researcher since it has been nicely preserved by the American national library. This journal also dealt with historical issues. For example, one issue of 1919

STATISTICS OF CASES OF TETANUS TREATED IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL DURING 1861-62-63 AND 64, SHOWING ITS RATES OF MORTALITY AND CURE, AS ALSO ITS PREVALENCE, IN DIFFERENT MONTHS AND YEARS.

By BABOO GOBIN CHUNDER CHATTERJEE.

Total No. of patients admitted during 1861-62-63 & 64	32,314
Of these there were Christians	14,524
" " " Natives	17,790
" " " of tetanus cases	132, or 1 in 244.8 cases.*
" " " " Christian	18, " 1 " 806.88 " "
" " " " Native	114, " 1 " 156.05 " "
" " " " traumatic	96, " 1 " 336.6 " "
" " " " idiopathic	36, " 1 " 897.6 " "
about 2½ times less frequent than traumatic cases.	
" " " cured 53, or 1 in 2.49, i. e., 40.15 per cent. of cure.	
" " " traumatic	37, " 38.54 " "
" " " idiopathic	16, " 44.44 " "
" " " died 70, or 1 in 1.88, " 53.03 " "	
" " " traumatic	53, " 55.2 " "
" " " idiopathic	17, " 47.22 " "

Total No. of tetanus cases in			
January, 1861-62-63 & 64,†	14	Most pre- valent.	Of these died 10 or 71.42 % cent.
Do. February, do. do.	12	" "	7 " 58.33 " "
Do. March, do. do.	16	" "	8½ " 53.12 " "
Do. April, do. do.	14	" "	7½ " 53.57 " "
Do. May, do. do.	8	" "	2½ " 31.25 " "
Do. June, do. do.	11	" "	7½ " 68.18 " "
Do. July, do. do.	10	" "	4 " 40.00 " "
Do. August, do. do.	2	" "	½ " 25.00 " "
Do. September, do. do.	7	Again Least more preva- lent.	4 " 57.14 " "
Do. October, do. do.	13	" "	7 " 53.84 " "
Do. November, do. do.	14	" "	5 " 35.71 " "
Do. December, do. do.	10	" "	7 " 70.00 " "
Do. 1861-62-63-64.			
29 38 27 38.			

Fig 13: Statistics about Tetanus at Medical College Calcutta by an Indian author in IMG (1866)

Hints on the diagnosis of Eye Diseases. By R. B. CARTER, F.R.C.S. (Dublin: Falconer.)

This is a pamphlet which displays a very perfect knowledge of the subject upon which it treats. It does not, however, contain much original matter; and while it may prove useful to the general practitioner, we do not see that it confers any benefit upon the ophthalmic surgeon.

Cholera Prospects. By TILBURY FOX, M.D. (London: Hardwicke.)

Dr. Tilbury Fox has been travelling in Egypt, and has watched the progress of cholera at Alexandria. He assures us that the epidemic is regularly brought from India by pilgrims to Mecca; and that nothing short of a perfect system of quarantine can prevent the inroads of cholera into Europe. He suggests the prevention of the pilgrimage, or the examination of the pilgrims.

Fig 14: Discussion about newly published books in the IMG in 1866

Reviews

LIPPINCOTT'S QUICK REFERENCE BOOK FOR MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—By G. E. Rehberger, A.B., M.D. Thirteenth Edition. 1946. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. ix plus 1461. Illustrated. Price, 90s.

The first ten parts of this book deals with general medicine and surgery, gynecology, genito-urinary diseases, obstetrics, diseases of skin, eye, ear, nose and throat, and orthopaedics, and the last one with the

Fig 15: A discussion on the newly published Lippincott's book in 1947 issue of the IMG

discussed plague, as described in the diary of Emperor Jahangir, in 1618. There were also other sections of the journal like hospital practice, review article and case reports.

Later Journals :

At the turn of the twentieth century, many more medical journals came into being in India. The Indian journal of medical research was started in July, 1913. The man behind this journal was Sir Charles PardeyLukis, one of the most illustrious doctors of that time. He was a professor of medicine at the Calcutta medical College, Director General of Indian Medical Service and one of the inspirations behind setting up of the Calcutta School Of Tropical Medicine.

The present journal, JIMA, was started in 1930. Eminent physicians like Dr NilratanSarkar and Dr Bidhan Ch. Roy were associated with this journal in its initial days.

The Indian Journal of Dermatology, published since 1955, is the oldest dermatology journal in Asia and one of the oldest peer-reviewed dermatology journals in the world. The same year, the Journal of association of Physicians of India (JAPI) was started and this has also continued uninterruptedly after that.

Finally, the author would like to end with mention of another journal: The Calcutta Journal of Natural History (CJNH). This was not a medical journal but at a time when other medical journals had stopped printing and there was a void, this Calcutta journal published some interesting articles on medical science and kept the lamp of medical publishing in India alive. It was in vogue from 1840-47.

It had some interesting medical articles like the one mentioned below (Figure 16).

Remarks on Dracunculus. By MR. J. McCLELLAND.

A communication from Mr. Brett, in the August number of the "India Journal of Medical and Physical Science," reminds me of a promise I had made to examine three specimens of Guinea-worm with which he very kindly favoured me. About fifteen years ago the subject created much interest in India, particularly in Bombay, where the disease is very common throughout a large proportion of that Presidency. The first volume of the transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta contains no fewer than six papers

Fig 16: an article in CJNH on Dracunculiasis (1841), which mentions previous articles published in TMPSC and IJMPS

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