

Vol. III, No. 4

December 1979

Studies in History of Medicine

IHMMR



**Department of History of Medicine
Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research
Tughlaqabad, New Delhi**

SOURCE MATERIAL OF ARAB MEDICINE*

HAKEEM ABDUL HAMEED

S. REYAZ ALI PARVAZ

The Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research, New Delhi, is engaged in studies of different systems of medicine. With the progress of the Institute and its many faceted activities its usefulness will acquire new dimensions. The need of such an institution in India cannot be over-emphasized since India is the meeting place of various systems of medicine and has a wealth of unexplored research material on them which needs serious study.

The Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research comprises several medical and academic wings, e.g., pharmacy college, research laboratories, museums, drug farms and a splendid medical library with a microfilm unit. The library possesses several important collections, some of which are:

1. Sir Cyril Elgood Collection
2. Mohammad Umar Jafri Collection
3. Dr Abdul Sattar Siddiqi Collection

The Microfilm Unit with its several mobile teams is charged with the difficult task of preserving precious manuscripts scattered in India and elsewhere. As a preliminary step, efforts are being made to collect all valuable manuscripts (or their microfilms) in Arabic and Persian and especially the manuscripts pertaining to Arab Medicine. Under the plan, all information regarding these manuscripts is being collected in the form of a comprehensive Bibliography. The Bibliography is to contain information about all important manuscripts remaining unpublished so far. It is hoped this compilation will prove to be an indispensable reference medium for researchers and historians of medicine and science.

Preliminary endeavours in regard to the bibliography

In the Indo-Pak Subcontinent are to be found thousands of old manuscripts which are of great importance. A large part of

* Paper presented at International Congress of the History and Philosophy of Science held at Islamabad, 8-13 December, 1979.