

A SURVEY OF DRUGS

*with particular reference to the Arab
(Unani) medicine and Ayurveda*

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and

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Hamdard Buildings

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FOREWORD

Now that, at recent meeting, the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has decided to establish a permanent organisation for medicinal plants; while, under the auspices of the same Council, the Drug Research Institute of Lucknow has been interesting itself in researches on indigenous herbs, and the Indian Council of Medical Research has formulated a more comprehensive and useful programme than in the past of research on such drugs; and while public interest, for some special reasons, is, at present, focussed more on indigenous herbs it is expected that the following preliminary survey of drugs by the Institute of the History of Medicine & Medical Research will meet with approval.

The present work is an enlargement of the brochure published in 1957 under the caption "A Survey of Drugs" from which, for lack of time and space, many details were omitted. Those details are being incorporated in this publication, and a classified list of drugs drawn according to diseases is also being added. This list is based on the knowledge and experience of the technical staff of our laboratories and a careful scrutiny of existing literature. I hope that this list will be found useful by those working on the indigenous drugs.

The present work gives the lineaments of the programme we have in view of research on the indigenous drugs.

An important point which has emerged from this survey is the extensive contribution of Unani or Arab Medicine to the international materia medica in general and the Indian materia medica in particular, the realisation of which lay buried under neglect of relevant literature. It is to be hoped that in the matter of literary research such an abominable motive as prejudice will not be allowed to prevail and impartial recognition will be conceded to the services of each and every section of humanity.

The pains with which the groundwork was done by Hakim Maulvi Abdul Wahid, a respectable elderly personality with literary taste, is apparent from the following pages. The present arrangement, checking of names, making comparisons and supervising the publication of this work so well is largely, however, due to the untiring efforts of Mr. H.H. Siddiqui, Incharge of our Pharmacological Laboratory. Dr. M.A. Aziz, our Chief Chemist, Mr. Jamal Shah Qadry, Incharge of the Pharmacognosy Laboratory, Dr. Bachan Singh, Pathologist in the Hamdard Clinic and Mr. A.H. Israeli, Research Assistant in the Research Laboratory, are also to be thanked for their joint efforts in compiling various lists, specially the classified list.

Institute of the History of Medicine
&
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(Hakeem) Abdul Hameed
Secretary

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