

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF HEALTH)

THE following replies have been given by the Editor, *Indian Medical Gazette*, to Questionnaire No. III (for practitioners of Ayurvedic, Unani-Tibbi and Western systems of medicine) issued by the above Committee.

Questions

1. What are the characteristics of the indigenous systems which specially commend them to the people ?
 2. What are the special features of the indigenous systems which give them a distinctive and pre-eminent value from the point of view of the health of the community ?
 3. Any special research on indigenous systems which you have carried out. Please supply copies of your research publications.
 4. In addition to physical examination, are any laboratory tests or technique peculiar to the indigenous systems used by you ?
 5. Are you in favour of any control over the *teaching* and *practice* of the indigenous medicine on the lines of the control by the Indian Medical Council ?
 6. What measures would you suggest to increase the usefulness of the indigenous systems ?
 7. How can the measures suggested be made part of a comprehensive plan of medical relief ?
 8. How can the existing Vaidyas and Hakims be utilized, as an immediate measure, in any composite scheme of health service in rural areas ?
 9. What measures can be taken to improve the facilities for training in indigenous systems of medicine ?
- Should there be a uniform standard of *teaching* and examination of these systems all over India ?
10. Should the students of the Western medicine be taught the indigenous system of medicine ? If so, at what stage of their studies ?
 11. Are you in favour of evolving one system of medicine in India by a process of fusion of the Ayurvedic, Unani and the Western systems ? If so, what are your proposals ?

Answers

The nomenclature of diseases is understood better than the Western nomenclature and drugs used are also better known.

Symptomatic treatment is better and so is the contact between patient and the physician. The physicians are friends of the family.

Nil. Work has been done in Calcutta in the School of Tropical Medicine and in Bombay in the Haffkine Institute.

W. R. is demanded frequently in cases of leucoderma.

Yes.

Registration approved by the Council.

By allowing practice only to registered practitioners.

As in 6 and 7.

A modicum of anatomy and physiology of the Western system to be acquired compulsorily before starting study in indigenous systems. A state examination of the modicum is desirable.

Yes.

Post-graduate course or an additional course in therapeutics, compulsory or optional.

No.

Homoeopathy has not been mentioned by the Committee. It is practised in India undoubtedly and is a Western system. Its practice may also be allowed subject to answer to question No. 9.