

## Appendix 1

The book entitled *Annals of Epidemics in China Over the Past 3000 Years* comprises five volumes: “Pre-Qin to Ming Dynasty”, “Qing Dynasty”, “Republic of China Volume (I)”, “Republic of China Volume (II)” and “Livestock Epidemics”. The approach and contents are summarized as follows. First, it establishes the longest epidemic time line in the world, comprising 34056 individual continuous annual epidemic records for the past 2720 years (770B.C.E.–AD1949), some of the records are monthly. Second, it provides a comprehensive set of historical materials, including information such as the period, affected area, cause, consequences, and types of epidemic. Third, it uses a wide range of historical sources. Historical records of epidemics are compiled from official histories, chronicles, anthologies, archives, and modern newspapers and journals. Fourth, it has a high degree of reliability because great attention has been paid to the selection of historical materials, based on mutual verification, supplementary verification, evaluation of debates, and corrections. Fifth, it provides detailed information about epidemics. The book provides details of all areas where epidemics developed out together with their spatial development. The book is the most complete and systematic compilation of historical materials for the conduct of research on historical epidemics in China. The information provided about the government management of epidemics and the interaction between epidemics, the environment, and human beings will also be a valuable information source for the prevention and control of future epidemics.

## Appendix 2

From 220B.C.E. to AD1949, there were a total of 880 epidemic years (As long as there was a county or army experiencing an epidemic within one year, that year was defined as an epidemic year) within the territory of modern China. Excluding intervals lacking accurate seasonal records, the proportions of epidemics occurring in spring, summer, autumn, and winter are 24.68%, 30.68%, 26.66%, and 17.99%, respectively. However, the results only pertain to the frequency of epidemics and the spatial extent of the epidemics is not considered. Notably, however, each epidemic affected a specific region and it is necessary to take this into account when assessing the seasonal characteristics. After the Song Dynasty, data on the area of each epidemic can be distinguished at the county level. From the Northern Song Dynasty to the Republic of China (R.O.C.) (AD960–AD1949), the cumulative total number of counties affected by epidemics is 19277, and the proportions occurring in spring, summer, autumn, and winter are 21.2%, 35.0%, 33.6%, and 10.2%, respectively. It is evident that epidemics tended to break out in summer and autumn rather than in spring and winter (Gong, 2003, 2019). However, since the late Ming Dynasty, with the increase in pathogens and the frequency of epidemics, seasonal differences have been largely disappeared. For example, during the periods of the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China, epidemics not only occurred every year, but also in every season in every year.