

'Sengupta, SL'

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SENGUPTA, S.L.

1916


S. L. SENGUPTA,
L.D.M.S.,
Sub. Asst.-Surgeon.

No.....

The 8th August 1916

P. O. BAIDER BAZAR,
KHONGSARDI,
(Dacca.)

Mr. C. J. S. Thompson
London.

Dear Sir,

Very glad to receive your
letter of 12th July, 16,, and to hear
that the native remedies & Indian
medical charms which I sent to
you, have been able to please
you. I shall be glad to get printed
papers regarding those charms which
you like to put before your Exhi-
bition. I shall try my best to
collect for you Amulets & Votive
offerings which are in practice
in many parts of India.

Awaiting to hear from you
very often,

Yours faithfully.

S. L. Sengupta
L.D.M.S.

Official H.M.M.

12 July 1916.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you very cordially for the interesting box of native remedies and Indian medical charms, which you have so kindly sent for this Museum. The specimen of Nimai together with the account you sent of its preparation is very interesting, and I will have the full statement printed on the label when it is exhibited. The poison stone is also another object in which I am greatly interested. I have heard about them frequently, and have seen one or two specimens in England. Your descriptions will assist us very much, and add to the interest of the exhibit.

I sincerely trust you will not relax your efforts in getting us any medical charms and amulets you can, as all such will stimulate a greater interest in the study of the ancient history of Hindu medicine, which, as research is teaching us, was one of the earliest systems in the world. Every little detail connected with it helps to build up the foundations of the medical art, which no doubt came from east to west.

Again thanking you for all the trouble you have taken in
the matter, and trusting to hear from you,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T

Dr. S.L. Sengupta,
P.O. Baidar Bazar,
Khongsardi
Dacca,
India.

Descriptions of the Indian Charms
used with beneficial effects in Surgery, Medicine,
obstetrics & Gynaecology.

1. Poison-Sucking-Stone — The stone is a great aid to Surgery whenever all the remedies fail. It is thought to suck out poison from a poisonous limb & incurable ulcers. The stone is placed on the ulcer or on the limb after making a few scratches. The stone will fall down if the site be healthy. On the other hand, the stone will remain attached to the place if it be poisonous, until the colour of the stone turns quite blue. The stone will fall down of itself after it has sucked out all the poisons. Then the stone is ~~place~~ put to a quantity of milk & the milk turns quite a green colour after about half an hour. The poisonous milk is then thrown off when the stone gets ~~of~~ its former colour. So the stone is purified again & can be applied to another case with good results.
2. Three-needled-moná — The clustered three needles of a native drug, moná. It is rare to find out three needles clustered together, as always two or four needles are seen clustered. The ~~ne~~ three needles are bro

into pieces & put inside an iron Amulet. The Amulet is put to hang on the neck of a person who is thought to be attacked with evil spirits.

It will not be needless to say here that the monā-leaves are mortared to a paste & applied inside a sinus with marvellous results.

3. Kanthā-Cowri — I have much pleasure to collect Kanthā-cowries of ancient times, i.e. of more than two centuries ago. The cowries are put to hang on the Ziphoid Appendix of the Sternum for the treatment of enlarged Liver & ~~other~~ Liver complaints with beneficial results.

4. Cari-wings — wings of a beautiful fly named cari. These wings are put to hang on the neck of a woman whose children die soon after their birth.

5. Red-Sanders-Seed — The Seed is placed on the tail of an ear-ring. The ear-ring is put to an ear of a child who suffers from Bowel-complaints.

6. Kausthuri — I have much pleasure to collect a sample of Kausthuri of about two centuries before. It is a marvellous cure for acute inflammation.

It is ground to a thin paste & applied to an acute inflammatory area. Pain & swelling disappear within an hour, and the inflammation will surely subside in a day.

It is a marvellous cure for Erysipelas, Cellulitis & threatened Gangrene.

7. Labour Setter — This charm is tied round the right ~~thigh~~ thigh of an woman who is about to parturite, i.e. when she is in the third stage. It is applied to a protracted labour case. The charm must be taken off when the labour sets in.

8. Bamboo-Nail — It is used to cut the umbilical cord, in order to separate the ~~can~~ child from its mother just after

delivery. It is a bad practice among the country midwives of India not to cut the umbilical cord until the Placenta has come out.

After the Placenta has come out the cord is tied with a thread about two inches apart from the umbilicus of the child & then a cut is made with this familiar instrument.

This is said to be collected fresh in every requirement, most probably from fear of sepsis.

9. Broken-glass - This broken glass piece, I have come to collect from a barbaric or village-Surgeon. He says that his grandfather & his father used it, and he himself uses it up to ^{the} date as a surgical knife. He has never seen any of his operations to be septic.

10. Poá-teeth - these are teeth of a fish, named Poá. Small portion of a tooth is ground with a little water & applied internally for the treatment of Suppression & Retention of urine.

11. Red-Pepper Root — This is used for the treatment of Acute Enlargement of glands. The patient is to chew a root with Betel nut for a quarter of an hour. He will have to swallow the juice only, the residue being massaged on the affected spot three times.

It is a good cure & has won its fame throughout the natives of the country.

12. Pauchamukhi Rudrāksha —

This is tied round the neck for the treatment of Lung diseases.

S. L. Sen Gupta
L.D.M.S.,
Khongardi
P.O. Baidar Bazar —
(Dacca)
India


S. L. SENGUPTA,

L.D.M.S.,
Sub. Ass.-Surgeon.

No. J 125
16

The 6th June 1916

P. O. BAIDER BAZAR,
KHONGSARDI,
(Dacca.)

Mr C. J. S. Thompson ^{curator,}
The Wellcome Historical medical
museum.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind
letter of the 4th ultimo.

I have much pleasure to send you
a sample of the old & interesting
marvellous remedy "Nimai", account
of which I sent you beforehand.

I have got it from Babu Hem chandra
Sen, Zemindar of Hamsadi, P.O. Baidar
Bazar (Dacca). This sample is sufficient
for three patients. I have got the
following informations from the
gentleman with regard to "Nimai".

1. He never administers the remedy
externally.
2. Only one dose for internal use for
a patient is sufficient. It is to be
swallowed with a little water.
3. The patient will have, as far as
possible, to remain under the
sun on the day of the administra-
tion of the ~~drug~~ remedy.

4. He has in his stock about two ounces of "Nimai", and he sells at Rs 4 per dose.

I send herewith descriptions of a few Indian charms which were practised beneficially in ancient times.

I enclose "Nimai" with the Indian charms (descriptions of which I send herewith) in a Registered Parcel & send to you.

I am collecting Amulets & votive offerings for the treatment of various diseases & protection against Evil spirits. These will be sent to you afterwards.

Thanking you for an early reply,

yours most faithfully

S. L. Sen Gupta.,

L.D.M.S.


S. L. SENGUPTA,
L.D.M.S.,
Sub. Asst.-Surgeon.


No. *A 211*/*16*

The *11th* April 1916

P. O. BAIDER BAZAR,
KHONGSARDI,
(Dacca.)

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo.

I am trying my best to send you a sample of the old curious remedy "Nimai", the account of which I had much pleasure to send you beforehand.

I am, according to your advice, trying my best to collect as far as I can, the objects connected with medicine & Surgery of India in former times.

Will you please let me know whether descriptions of indigenous drugs will be of use to you. It is needless to say that though they were used in former times by the ancient Kavirajes, Vaidyas, Hakims &c. (indigenous medical practitioners) & now fall behind us quite unobserved, their efficacy is marvellous.

I am testing their merits in my own practice one by one. I shall be glad to send you samples of the drugs with their respective descriptions, if they come to any use to you.

Awaiting for an early reply,

Yours faithfully

S. L. Sengupta

H.M.M.

10 March 1916.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your letter of the 13th ult. and for the interesting account of the curious remedy called "Nimai". I should be very grateful if you could get us a small sample (it does not matter however little) of the remedy, so that we could place it in this Museum with other curious specimens of materia medica. If you could send us a sample we will have your description attached to it, and an acknowledgment of it being sent by you.

If you could help us in sending any object connected with medicine or surgery used by practitioners in India to add to our Indian collection, we should be very grateful. Old native dental forceps, instruments or any appliances used in dental surgery would be greatly appreciated.

Again thanking you very cordially for your kindness,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T

Mr. S.L. Sengupta, L.D.M.S.,
P.O. Baidar Bazar,
Khongsardi, (Dacca).

S. L. SENGUPTA,

L.D.M.S.,
Sub. Ass't-Surgeon.

No.

The 15th Feb 1916

P. O. BAIDER BAZAR,
KHONGSARDI,
(Dacca.)

Messrs Burroughs Wellcome & Co.,
London.

Dear Sirs,

I am extremely glad to receive
a copy of Wellcome's medical memorandum
Book for 1916.

I came to know from a printed ^{paper} ~~strip~~
in the book that a historical medical
museum is established at London by
Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, to which a
co-operative assistance is invited from
the medical Practitioners dwelling among
the Primitive races. I have recently
sent to the Curator of the museum
a description of Nimai, a well-known
family medicine of the Indians of
ancient times with its preparation
& Therapeutic notes. I am sorry that
I could not supply him with a specimen
of the medicine. I think that the description
will not be neglected & I shall be glad
to hear from you in future. Yours faithfully

Suresh Lohon Sengupta
L.D.M.S.,
Sub Ass't Surgeon

Nimai and its uses

Indian Physicians of ~~ant~~ ancient times prepared a substance named Nimai, which was most barbarously prepared, as will be described afterwards, and efficaciously treated various diseases and disorders of the Human body. The existence of Nimai extinguishes ^{after} ~~of~~ the circulation of the Humane Law of the British Government.

Preparation —

A strong & stout, negro-black young-man was sought for. He would furnish the following qualifications. He must be only son of a family, healthy & jet black. He must be a youth, i.e. 30 to 35 years of age. There should be no skin disease on the body of the man. The man was fed for at least a month or so very carefully; it is, I think, an easy way for observation. The man was fatigued for 2 or 3 days & before the preparation of Nimai. When the time came on, a

a big Iron vessel containing Mustard oil was heated to boil and a man was seated near it all the while to watch that the oil itself does not burn. The man was tied round his legs and hanged in a tree just above the boiling oil with his head downwards & a foot above the vessel. In this way the man struggled until he expired. After the man's death a viscid mucus & froth used to evacuate out through the nostrills to the vessel. The mucus and the oil was evaporated to a thick paste. This paste got the title of Nimai. It can be well imagined what a cruel & inhumane method was applied for getting the same.

Composition -

As far as my knowledge goes, I can say that Nimai is composed of various substances; - fat, oil globules, Phosphates

Phosphates, calcium, Ferrum & magnesium salts, and their combination is such that it is turned into a most efficacious analgesic & nutritive. I can't say whether there is any more constituent of which I am quite ignorant. I have not yet seen the substance. I, therefore, appeal to the scientists to analyse out Nimai if they find the substance anywhere.

Treatment & Therapeutic Notes—

It was administered internally as well as externally.

Internally it was used as a nutritious chemical. As prepared from a human body it must be, I think, better than Chicken Broth, Pigeon Soup, Beef Tea, or the like for the purpose of making up all the defects of a ~~cha~~ cachectic & weak person, and during convalescence.

It

contains in solution most of the tonics of their kind, especially which a human body requires. It is also a better stimulating agent, as it is said to have been applied in unconsciousness, shock etc. Fall from a height produces ~~shock~~ shock, unconsciousness, great deal of pain, fractures, dislocations, sprains etc. I have come to know that its administration to a person fell from a height gave an instantaneous relief. As regards dosage, I am quite ignorant.

Externally it was administered as an emollient & a Liniment in pains, fractures, dislocations etc. Having in its solution ~ Calcium salt, the best bone-forming agents, it must render a better work in fractures applied both internally & externally. As regards its

its analgesic property I can't say what constituent of it does the same. It is said to be a harmless analgesic. It relieves swelling & tenderness. I can't say what more properties it has, as I am repeating only the heresays here and nothing else.

Similar Preparations—

As a sacrifice of a human body is prohibited by the Humane Law, similar preparations can be well imagined from other ~~can~~ nutritive animals, — pigeon, swan, fowl, chicken etc. Finally, I appeal to the modern scientists to invent out similar preparations & publish their qualities to the public for the benefit of Human lives, after testing all their merits.

Khongardi
R.O. Baider-Bazar
Dacca,
India

13-2-16

Suresh Lakhon Sen Gupta
L.D.M.S.,
Sub asst. Surgeon



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SNOW HILL BUILDINGS,

In reply please refer to

B.E.M.

LONDON, E.C. 21st March 1916

To the Curator,
H.M.M.,
Wigmore Street, W.

We attach a letter received from Sub.Asst.Surgeon
S.L.Sengupta, P.O.Balder Bazar, Khongsardi, Dacca, India, to which,
perhaps, you may wish to reply.

AB

AH


S. L. SENGUPTA,
L.D.M.S.,
Sub. Ass't.-Surgeon.


No.

The 13th Feb 1916

P. O. BAIDER BAZAR,
KHONGSARDI,
(Dacca.)

Dear Sir,

I come to know that a historical medical museum is established at London by Mr. Henry S. Wellcome to which a co-operative assistance is invited from the Medical Practitioners dwelling among the primitive races.

I am extremely glad to send herewith a description of Nimai, a well known familiar medicine of our country in ancient times, particulars of which I mention in the description. I often heard of the medicine which was so familiar, & I am glad to collect the descriptions from one of my grand-mothers. I am ~~so~~ sorry that I am quite unable to supply you with any sample of the medicine.

Thinking that the description can render some help to your museum,

yours sincerely,
Suresh Lohon Sen Gupta
L.D.M.S.,
Sub assistant Surgeon