

**'Amandolini, Dom Adalbert'**

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March 31st, 1905.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your kind letter of the 27th inst., which I have read with much interest.

I regret you cannot help me by the loan of any medical objects for the historical medical exhibition, but I have much appreciated the notes on Primitive Medicine you have kindly sent me.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Dom Adalbert Amandolini, O.S.B.,  
St. Scholastica's Abbey,  
Teignmouth,  
Devon.



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PAX.

St. Scholastica's Abbey,

Teignmouth, Devon.

RECP.

28 MAR 1905

ANSWR

31 MAR 1905

March 27. 05.

Dear Sir.

Thank you for the interesting pamphlet, useful leaflets, & kind circular sent to me. - Whoever gave you my name & address must have taken for granted, that a man like me, who has had so many exceptional facilities for collecting curios in connection with the arts & sciences (especially medicine) had profited to the utmost of his power. Alas & alack!



I have done nothing, & this too, in spite of my having been a dispensing chemist by profession, & my having studied medicine for several years. The fact of the matter is, that after my giving up worldly pursuits & embracing the ecclesiastical state, & being sent on the foreign missions (Asia, America & Australasia in succession), - while on the latter, I restricted my ministrations to the spiritual needs of those committed to my care. - I was in the Orakhan Hill Tracts, where the Hill Tribes, as we called the



Natives, had no knowledge whatever of medicine. Indeed, there was no use for it, as they were rarely ill; their mode of life being most primitive & simple. But when anyone did happen to fall sick, he would address himself to the Spirits (nats, they call them) of the jungle.

One little item of information might be useful & possibly new to you. I worked for many years amongst the Burmese. These poor, unfortunate people are liable to a complaint peculiarly their own, as far as I know, it does not exist outside of Burma.



The natives call it "Bet", which signifies "to mount". It may be described as a numbness that begins at the feet & it creeps & mounts up, with terrible rapidity, depriving the members of the body of all feeling, the sufferer of speech, & when it reaches the chest, kills him. From the beginning of the attack to the final collapse, not more than 60 min. oftentimes intervenes. To restore animation, the natives use sham-poning; but in desperate cases they tread on the sufferer.

Wishing you exhibition every success, Bel: me.

Yours sincerely  
Don Adalberto Amandolini, O.S.B.