

NEWS

- A. *History of Medicine in India* (Editor: P.V. Sharma), Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, 1992, pp. xxi + 527, Rs. 350.00 (Inland), US \$120.00 (Foreign)

The book contains contributions from 20 Indian and foreign experts in different aspects of ancient Indian medicine with a foreword by Prof. P.N. Tandon, Chairman of the Indian National Commission for History of Science. The book in its 14 chapters makes a systematic survey of Pre-Vedic, Vedic and Post-Vedic literature dealing with medicine, and throws important light on different traditions of Ayurveda, medicinal plants, general medicine, preventive and social medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, promotive therapy, toxicology, pharmacology and other topics, besides basic concepts of Ayurveda and Siddha medicine. The role of Indian medicine with respect to world medicine as a whole has also been highlighted in a perspective manner.

B. *Indian History Congress*

The 52nd Session of the Indian History Congress was inaugurated by Shri Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resources Development, Government of India, on 21 February 1992 in Delhi. In his inaugural address, Shri Singh laid emphasis on the secular and scientific writings of history. The Minister also released the souvenir "Historic Delhi". At the three-day Congress, the History of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Periods was discussed. The General President, Prof. A R Kulkarni, suggested that all universities/institutions in the country should encourage and support archaeological work, as it is the only scientific method of studying India's cultural heritage. A symposium on "Caste and Class in Indian History", organised on the occasion, was addressed by eminent historians like Profs. R S Sharma, Irfan Habib and Dr Bhaskar Chattopadhyaya. The History of Science, Society and Technology was also a subject of interest among the historians. The following papers on history of science were presented at the Congress:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| J R Ramdas (Bombay) | — <i>Bhagirathavidya</i> — Irrigation Engineering in Ancient India. |
| V K Jain (Delhi) | — Dynamics of Hydraulic Activity in the Maurayan and Post-Mauryan Times. |
| C S Mohanavelu (Madras) | — Ancient Indian Medical Heritage in Germany. |
| V B Arya (Bombay) | — Cosmology in <i>Rg Vedic</i> Era. |
| Vijaya Ramaswamy (Delhi) | — Name Analysis of Crastmen in Inscriptions (South India, 7th to 12th Century). |

- I G Khan (Aligarh) — Growth of Forts and Towns in Northern India, 18th Century.
- S M R Ansari (Aligarh) — Source Material for History of Exact Sciences in Medieval India.
- S Haleem Khan (Aligarh) — Karkhana of a Mughal Noble — Zimkhana and Palkhana of Amber.
- V Lalitha (Madras) — The Silk Route.
- Rajeev Sharma (Aligarh) — Roads and Communication in Western Rajasthan — A cartographic study.
- Iqtidar Alam Khan (Aligarh) — The Nature of Hand-guns in Mughal India.
- Pushpa Prasad (Aligarh) — Weights and Measures in Gujarat Sultanate — A study based on inscriptions.
- Athar Ali (Aligarh) — The Fort of Daulatabad — A survey.
- S R Sarma and Ishrat Alam (Aligarh) — A Unique Way of Announcing Time at Hayat Nagar in the Seventeenth Century.
- Hakim Abdul Bari (New Delhi) — Contribution of Hakim Muhammad Sharif Khan to the Development of Unani Medicine (Tibb).
- Aftab Ahmad Agmi (New Delhi) — Development of Unani Medicine during the Reign of Babar.
- Mrishad Hussain (New Delhi) — Indian Mathematicians of the Eighteenth Century and Their Works.
- Mehtab Narain Mathur (New Delhi) — Risalah dar Ahwal Mulk-i-Farang-wa Hindustan — A Treatise of Modern Astronomy.
- Neeraj Kumar (Delhi) — British Forest Policy in Chotanagpur, 1914-45.
- D B Srivastava (Agra) — The First Engineering College in India — The Thomas Civil Engineering College, Roorkee.

- R Dayanal and C J Nirmal (Madras) — Cultivation, Categorization and Consumption of Drugs in the Nineteenth Century India.
- Sivagi Keyal (Calcutta) — Early Attempts at Planting Tea in Chotanagpur.
- Rajib Lochan Sahoo (Delhi) — Cotton Duties and Cotton Textile Mill Industries: A brief study of British tariff and cotton policies in India.
- R Saidulla (Hyderabad) — Irrigation Development of Hyderabad State with Special Reference to Telangana — 1911-1948.
- K V Nayak (Bombay) — Some Reflections on Nineteenth Century Debate on Religion, Science and Philosophy.

C. *The Encyclopedia of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures* is scheduled to appear in 1995. It will comprise alphabetically arranged entries on all aspects of the subject and is intended to provide an overview of scholarship in this emerging field. Inquiries should be addressed to: Helaine Selin, Science Librarian, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002.

