

## Book Reviews

VAIDYA BHAGWAN DASH, *Tibetan medicine with special reference to Yoga Śataka*, Dharamsala, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 1976, 8vo, pp. xvi, 390, £6.00.

Reviewed by Marianne Winder, M. A., A. L. A., Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

Here is a book by a man who is a physician, a scholar, and active in public life, three qualities not often combined in one person. The work under review is a reconstruction of a Sanskrit ayurvedic text by means of an extant Tibetan translation of it, aided by comparison with a similar Sanskrit text on the same subject and with a Sinhalese version. Much is also known from commentaries about the original Sanskrit text which was called *Yoga Śataka*, Tibetan *sbyor.ba.brgya.pa* "Collection of a hundred prescriptions". It was composed by one of the great men called Nagarjuna, who could have lived between 225 B.C. when a Nagarjuna was mentioned on the Aśoka pillars, and A.D. 401 when Kumarajiva mentions Nagarjuna. The colophon gives the full name of Tharpa who translated it into Tibetan, and we are on firmer ground with the editor and annotator of the Tibetan text: the historian Bu-ston who lived A.D. 1299-1364. The second Sanskrit text was written by Vararuci.

As all Sanskrit and Tibetan paragraphs have been also translated into English, they are accessible to any interested reader. There is an informative introduction as well as useful comments and observations at the end, with bibliographical notes and glossaries. The word-for-word interlinear version is made particularly valuable by the passages where translation and transmission mistakes between the Sanskrit and the Tibetan version are traced. For instance, on p. 135, in verse no. 27, Vararuci's Sanskrit mentions *āmalakī* (*Embllica officinalis* Linn.). The Tibetan text translates what presumably Nagarjuna had as well by *ta.ma.la.ki* which would be a loanword from Sanskrit *tāmalakī* (*Phyllanthus niruri* Linn.). Apparently no special harm came to the patients as the result of such mistakes. Most remedies are herbal but some are quite strong poisons made innocuous by processing with other ingredients.

AHMAD Y. AL-HASSAN, GHADA KARMI, and NIZAR NAMNUM (editors), *Proceedings of the First International Symposium for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, April 5-12, 1976, volume II, papers in European languages*, Aleppo, Aleppo University Press, 1978, 4to, pp. 365, illus., [no price stated].

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The First International Symposium for the History of Arabic Science (Aleppo University, 5-12 April 1976) was held in celebration of two occasions: the inauguration of the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, which has published successfully two volumes of the *Journal for the History of Arabic Science*; and the foundation of the Syrian Society for the History of Science. Papers read in occidental languages, representing the tireless efforts of Arab scholars and arabists, each in his own field of research or interest, are amassed in this voluminous publication, which also has summaries (in English, French, or German) of articles printed in Arabic in Volume I of the same *Proceedings*. An adequate list of contents harbours all the titles, which are classed under "Basic sciences" (pp. 29-192), "Engineering, technology, and