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## History of Indigenous Medicine

By Dr. E. P. Rasiyah, R. A. M. P., J. P.

According to ancient History, the Vindya Range divided India into two parts - the Northern Region or Aryawarta, where the Aryans and the Vedic culture reigned supreme and the Southern Region or Dakshinawarta, where the Dravidian culture prevailed.

### Medical Seminar

Two All India Medical Conferences were held in the forest slopes of Chaitraratha on the Himalayas in Ariyawarta. About 55 sages from various parts of India attended the first Conference and participated in the deliberations, to find out ways and means of obtaining for humanity the knowledge of Tri-sutra or the three Branches of Medical knowledge viz.

1. Heti-sutra containing theories regarding the causation of diseases,
2. Viyadi Sutra regarding the delineation of diseases,
3. Arisadhi Sutra dealing with the methods of curing diseases.

Agastya, the Rig-vedic sage of eminence (also known as Maitri Varuni, Aurvasbiya and Kumbhajoni) attended the conference as delegate from Dhaksinawarta, while Pulastiya, grand-father of King Ravana, attended as delegate from Lanka Dwipa.

Brahma, the first proponent of the Science of Medicine, is said to have divulged the recipes and principles of Medicine to his devotee, Prajapati who passed them on to Baskar. He in turn had divulged them to the twin Aswini brothers. They had passed them on to Indra, who became the last repository of the Medical Science at the time of the Conference. Bharadwaja who took a leading part in the pro-

ceedings of the first Conference was commissioned by the Assembly to meet Indra and obtain from him the Trisutras or a complete knowledge of the Octopartite Science of Indigenous Medicine, for the benefit of humanity. Accordingly, Bharadwaja went up to Indra, spent some time with him, mastered the precepts and principles of medicine and came down primed with a full knowledge of the holy Science, which he expounded to the Rishis assembled at the second Conference.

### Spread of Siddha System

Agastiyar and Pulastiyar attentively noted Bharadwaja's discourses absorbed and assimilated the theories. Agastiyar, later went up to Indra himself and learnt from him the techniques of preparing "Aindriya Rasayana" dealing with the art of Re-juvenation. Agastiyar already a Specialist in Chemotherapy (Rasa-Sastra) when he returned to Dhaksinawarta, slowly but firmly elaborated his Siddha System of Medicine "and its influence became so absorbing and powerful that the progress of the science of Surgery was arrested to a very considerable extent; so much so, that very big surgical cases began to be cured without the knife and thereby (Dhanwantri's) surgery dwindled into insignificance."

Pulastiyar spread the knowledge he had gained of the Octo-partite science, into the Kingdom of Lanka. Here the Science of Hindu Chemistry fast developed under the patronage of the ruling monarch.

According to Dr. A. Shanmugavelu of Tanjore, the Research Scholar of the Siddha system of

Medicine certain villages in South India still go by the appellation of "Sithan-Kudy" and "Sithan-Valvu", meaning that these villages were the abodes of Siddhars.

Thiruvavaduthurai, where Saint Thirumoolar is said to have remained in meditation for years, is considered to be another inspired seat of the Siddha system of Medicine known as மூலவர்க்கு சித்தம் கந்தி வர்க்கு சித்தம் as against the Siddha system of Agastiyar.

Sakracharya (son of Sage Bhirgu and father of Shanda and Amarka and Devajani and Preceptor of Kacha, son of Brahaspathi) was the originator of the Rasa-Siddha Sampradhaya. He was also the author of "Aushanasha Upapurana" and "Aushanasha Yoga or Sukra Upatantram" etc. He was an extra-ordinary genius and master of Hindu Chemistry. So Ravana engaged him as chief Chemist to work in his Rasa-Salaya or Chemical Laboratory and from him, he learnt the principles governing the preparation of Tinctures. This helped Ravana to compile his 'Arkaprakas' and other books such as 'Ravaniya Nibhanda Sangraha', "Kumara Tantra" etc.

Manthana - Bhairav, another great scholar of Hindu Chemistry, Alchemy and Metallurgy, who had gained fame as a Siddha Vaidiya, spent most part of his life in Ceylon, writing in South Indian languages, innumerable medical books such as "Sivatha Sangraha", "Siddhasada Nighantu" etc.

When the Buddhist culture spread in Ceylon, King Mahendra carried his colonising and cultural expeditions to Lanka with the result the Siddha system of medicine - Rasa Chikitsa or treatment by metallic medicine - became popular and supreme in the Island.

Just as Punarvasu excelled in Kayachikitsa by the use of herbal medi-

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## ARUNASALAM SATHASIVAMPILLAI

ALIAS

J. R. ARNOLD

(1820 - 1896)

By

V. MUTTUCUMARASWAMY B. A.

Author, Editor, Poet and Tamil scholar Sathasivampillai, alias Arnold, was an intellectual genius of the 19th century. He was a kinsman of P. S. Page, the first pioneer of English education in the North, who had established an English School at Manipay, and which later became the Manipay Green Memorial School.

His father was Arunasalam, a noble of Tellipallai. His family could be traced for four generations. His grandfather was Kathirithamby Chattambiyar. His great-grand father was Kulasegara Mudaliyar whose father was Puvirajasinghe Mudaliyar. His mother Anandapillai was a daughter of Kathirithambi Chattambiyar. He was born on October 11, 1820 at Navaly, Manipay, Jaffna. He began to study English in the English School conducted by the American Mission at Manipay, in 1831 and studied Tamil from 1825 to 1830 at the same school.

He joined the Batticotta Seminary in 1832. This was established by the American Missionaries in 1824. Dr. Poor was the head of this American Institution. Sathasivampillai was a Saivite from his birth until 1835, when he became a Protestant at the age of 15.

He studied for eight years at the Seminary from 1832 to 1840. He graduated in 1840. At that time the Seminary was presided over by Rev. H. R. Horsington. Arnold's classmates were William Nevins, alias Muttucumarar Sidambarpillai, Daniel Carol Vyrarnuttu Visvanathapillai, Everts, Roger and Stickney.

After Arnold graduated, he became a teacher of the Manipay English School in 1840.

In 1844 he proceeded to Madura with Rev. J. C. Smith and returned shortly after, when he was appointed teacher in the English Mission School at Chavakachcheri.

In 1846 he was transferred to the Uduvil English School where he taught Tamil to Miss Capell, the lady missionary who was stationed there.

He married Margaret E. Nitchie, alias Muttupillai, on July 9, 1846.

In 1847 Arnold was transferred as a teacher to the Uduvil girl's school.

In 1848 he proceeded to Madras with Dr. Spaulding and Pandit Santhirasegaram, to be of help in the revision of the Tamil translation of the Bible done by Percival.

He published his Thiruchatakam (100 stanzas on Jesus Christ) his first publication of poems in 1850.

He published Meyvethasaram or a poetical compendium of the Bible in 1852. In the same

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THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

இருள் சேர் இரு வினையும் சேரா இறைவன் பெருஞ் சேர் புகழ் புரிந்தார் மாட்டு.

Pain and pleasure, the kin of Anavam (darkness) will not afflict those who contemplate the Divine Glory of the Lord.



மகாவிஷயம் சுவாசம் கவிபுகழ் மகாவிஷயம் தானதி விஷயம் மகாவிஷயம் தானதி நேத்துமே மகாவிஷயம் தானதி மட்டுமே தானதுமே.

Hindu Organ

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WORK HARDER FOR THE COMMON WEAL

The supreme need of the hour is intensive work, dedicated and sincere. The country's call is for co-operative effort to improve the weakened economy by conscientious work. The common man has heard the call and is ready and willing to respond to the appeal. He has learned to be austere sacrificing comforts for the sake of the nation without graining for a minute that living has become more inconvenient and costly.

But the life of the nation is not sustained by the common man alone. There are others who participate in the administration of the country in diverse ways. They too must pay heed to the demand made on them in the national endeavour to revitalize the throttled economy of the country. Hence the need for more work, better work and honest work.

If school going children, the care free infants, the joyful youth of teen age can readily agree to meet a national demand and subject themselves to longer and earlier hours of study, the rest of the countrymen and women must certainly show greater enthusiasm and more feeling for dedicated work.

Passing time away in idleness when the country is confronted with the danger of a crippling economy would be a disloyal act. Indolence and indifference on the part of

a citizen at this crucial juncture would be inimical to revitalization.

In fact the new scheme of work as enunciated by the Government is a challenge to the lazy and slothful. The wheels of reorganization must move concertedly. Late latiffs, trickish truants and sleepy sluggards run the risk of being charged for obstruction of national work.

The administrative and executive officers have been called upon to gird up their loins and put their shoulders to the wheel in a massive and meritorious effort to step up production in every sphere of national activity — Industries, Agriculture, Technical and mechanical undertaking and similar occupations. No worker can afford to limp, linger or be left behind in this race for revival of the economy of the nation.

History of.....

(Continued from page 5)

cines and Panchakarmic principles; Kashyapa or Vriddhajivaka excelled in Paediatrics and Toxicology, while Dhanwantri did in Surgery Agastiyar excelled in Rasa-Chikitsa of the Siddha system, which later reached its zenith in the Buddhistic age as a result of researches done by the Siddha Nagarjuna with his band of 80 Siddhas,

Rasa-Sastra

In the field of Rasa-Chikitsa or treatment by Chemotherapeutic Medicine, Mercury, the main ingredient called by Siddha Physicians "Siva - Viryam" appeared to be the main pivot round which the entire science of Hindu Chemistry revolved. The Vedic aphorism "Rasa Vai Sa", i.e, "Mercury was nothing but the veritable Brahma" gave added proof of its efficacy in tackling even incurable diseases. Just as all earthly things emanated from Brahma and ultimately got absorbed into the bosom of Brahma, likewise Mercury was capable of absorbing and swallowing all earthly metals without there being a resulting increase in the weight of Mercury. This phenomenon deserves scientific investigation.

In the Govt. Library in Madras and also in the Tanjore Saraswathy Mahal Library, there appear to be five sets of medical

The Dedication of a Full Life C. N. Devarajan of Manipay

By S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM

God's Grace appears to have moulded an extra-ordinary man in the person of the late C. N. Devarajan who was sometimes familiarly known as "C. N. D." A brilliant man of high integrity, intellectual honesty, straight-forwardness, complete independence and absolute fearlessness, of simple attire and modest living, C. N. D. was a chip of the great family of pioneer Educationists, Philanthropists, Public Benefactors and public spirited men, who were the pride of the Ceylonese in the dawn of the 18th century,

Books popularly believed to have been written on the dictation of Maheswara (Brahma). They are the following: -

1. Ayurgrantha — the first book on the Siddha system,
2. Rudra Yamala Tantra — dealing with Hindu Chemistry in 6 parts,
3. Kama Sutra — Sexology,
4. Saiva Siddhanta — Chakrapani has quoted copiously from this book for his preparation of "Siva - Gudaka", a powerful drug, in the domain of re-juvenation.
5. Ayurved — a compendium of the whole Octopartite Science dealing with the techniques of Sphigmology or Nadi vingnanam.

Students of Research should study these books and make their comments.

During the course of the battle between Rama and Ravana, the latter's son, Meghadatta Indrajit had occasion to inflict a severe wound on the chest of Lakshman, brother of Rama. He fell unconscious and was bleeding profusely. Susana, the great Chemist-Engineer-General of Sagriva, despatched Hanuman to fetch "Visalya Karuni" a miraculous herb from Gandhamanu taparuvam, a hill near Rameshwaram. With that herb, the wonderful cure was effected, the bleeding arrested and the life of Lakshman saved. Such are the wondrous facts about the origin and history of the Indigenous system of Medicine.

and of which his paternal uncle the late C. W. Thamotherampillai was a distinguished member. Mr. Devarajan with his wide knowledge and outlook his foresighted policies, and living ahead of time, was in himself a University. In fact, his last article to the press was on the University issue, written after his eightieth birthday, at the beginning of this year. He adorned whatever he touched, by his systematic and elegant ways. To his last breath, his mind and intellect were as keen and alert as in his youth; and his devotion to public affairs remained unabated.

A man of varied talents refined speech, quick logical thought and practicality, he has been a leading light on matters of Education, Journalism, Book-keeping and Accountancy, Commercial Arithmetic, Printing and Publishing, Life Insurance, Agriculture, Horticulture, Building Construction, Rubber Plantation Astronomy, and even the controversial subject of Astrology. He could even go to the rescue of a lawyer by bringing to light certain intricate points of law which he had studied on his own. His knowledge of Tamil and English was of a very high standard. He was an excellent speaker and writer. Many used to go to him for the purpose of drafting memoranda and other documents.

Leaders like the late revered Sir P. Ramaswami and the late Hon'ble K. Balasingham had high regard for his general ability, political commonsense and information and fond of knowledge as well as for his capacity to use the English Language both orally and in writing.

His life was a total and busable dedication of all his talents and the knowledge he acquired, to the common weal of the world at large.

He manifested an abundant reverential love for all things created. Plants, and especially the dumb animals, were shown an equal measure of love and tender care as much as his near kith and kin. Wealth, power, caste, creed, etc. saw no discrimination in his hands. He was able to

tame a cobra as easily as he could a dog or a cat; in fact, at one time his pets were a squirrel, a monkey, and a cobra besides his cat and his life-long companions, viz. dogs.

It is worth mentioning a few events that led to the unusual circumstances of the formative years of this versatile man. Though the victim of a few unfortunate happenings, he survived them all with a sense of magnanimity, fortitude and his forgiving nature, drawing courage from the strength of his will power.

Mr. Devarajan was the son of the late Dr. C. Nallathampillai, the youngest of the five eminent brothers who, like five luminaries, blazed in different directions in the 1850s. Winning a scholarship from Ceylon, young Nallathampillai completed his medical career at the Calcutta University, and became a Government Doctor at Kumbakonam in South India. At that time cholera was an annual terror that took heavy toll of human life, and scourged the entire sub-continent of India. With Nallathampillai, self-sacrifice was a family trait, and the young Doctor devoted all his spare time, energy and earnings to research work in cholera. When modern medical science was yet in its infancy, the brilliant and persevering Doctor did invent his own cure for cholera, using local herbs; thus he became the only specialist for the successful treatment of the fatal disease at that time. From far and near, Maharajahs and paupers alike sought the Doctor's miraculous cure.

In those days people had just a scanty knowledge of hygiene and sanitation; so the noble Doctor and his equally saintly wife personally undertook the nursing of the cholera patients at their own sweet home. As the irony of fate would have it, it so happened that the Doctor's eldest child (a little daughter), his wife, her mother, and his nephew (the only child of the Doctor's brother, C. W. Chionappampillai) fell victims of the same fatal disease, and all the four of them died within a consecutive period of four days. People of the locality who had been virtually worshipping the Doctor's "Florence Nightingale", later built a shrine for her.

The Doctor, himself, distressed beyond course

lation, tried to alleviate the agony of his grieving brother Chinnappahpillai. He offered to send young Devarajah over to Chinnappahpillai, who was then an Engineer doing river navigation. The boy, an avid learner, learnt the rudiments of Tamil grammar from the reputed Tamil author and novelist, his uncle Chinnappahpillai. The coaching in Tamil language and literature by his four uncles stood Mr. Devarajan in good stead, as he started writing books in Tamil at a very ripe age. He did not fail to learn the practical know-how of river navigation from his uncle while living in house boats.

The youth Mr. Devarajan had also the good fortune of coming under the influence of his other uncles, the eldest of whom was the late Rao Bahadur C. W. Thamotharampillai, B. A., B. L. who won the unique distinction of passing out in 1858 as the first Graduate of the Madras University. The Rao Bahadur was one of the few Tamil scholars of his day. He rediscovered the ancient language, literature and culture of the Tamils from moth-eaten old manuscripts. Thamotharampillai was also the first Tamil editor of a Tamil newspaper ever to be published. He who was the guardian of the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and his elder brother the late Ponnambalam Coomaraswamy during their University education in India was also the guardian of Mr. Devarajan. Later Thamotharampillai became a judge of the High Court of Puthukkottai.

Mr. Devarajan's familiarity with the Bible and Christianity was due to his other illustrious uncle, the late Rev Sinnathamby Kingsbury. Mr. Devarajan's absorbing interest in education and teaching was sparked in the company of his fourth uncle, the late C. W. Appucuttu Kingsbury. His other uncle C. W. Eliahambay was an Accountant in Rangoon. At their own expense the five brothers had educated quite a good number of bright boys and given them higher education in India. Several of those boys have risen to high positions in life.

The teenager Devarajan completed his F. A. at the Madras Presidency College where, it is said, he put baffling questions to the Professors and manifested a sparkling intelligence. He then proceeded to Singapore to engage himself in the study of

the Rubber Plantation Industry. On his return to Ceylon the late Sir P Ramanathan was quick to appreciate his brilliance and also his sense of dedicated perseverance. Accordingly Sir Ramanathan appointed him a teacher at the Ramanathan College for girls. In due course he made Mr. Devarajan his Secretary in order to avail himself of his services in the founding of Parameshwara College for boys. The sound and energetic Mr. Devarajan so amazed the Grand Old Man in several ways that he was appointed teacher as well as the responsible and trustworthy Warden of Parameshwara College. Many an old boy of Parameshwara College would merrily relate episodes that portrayed the kind, understanding disciplinarian that was C. N. D.

Sir Ramanathan had high expectations of C. N. D., and thought that he would be one of the outstanding leaders of Ceylon. With that expectation in view the revered old leader gave him a certain degree of training.

The backward and wayward boys in Parameshwara College did not go home for the holidays. They were taken by Mr. Devarajan to his home where he gave them free board and lodging, with regular tuition by himself. Such was his sense of responsibility and his loving concern for the charges entrusted to him.

Who was to choose C. N. D. as his son-in-law? It was another doyen of high intellectual, moral and spiritual stature and nobility of birth, the late Swaminathan Kanagaratnam Lawton, usually known as S. K. Lawton. He was a leading scientist of the day who invented colour photography in his own studio at home simultaneously with the invention in the western world of highly equipped laboratories. Mention of his original inventions in the technique of photography is made in 'The Twentieth Century Impressions of Ceylon', a journal published in England. The western scientists had been surprised to hear that Lawton had been using such innovations as the juice of fresh green leaves in his discovery. S. K. Lawton was the manager of many schools, and an artist of no mean standard. The Vivekananda Vidyalayam which Lawton founded at Manipay had the blessings of Swami Vivekananda himself who left his handkerchief as a memento and was later laid the

foundation for the school. It was S. K. Lawton, a man of such calibre, that selected C. N. D. as his son-in-law.

For some time Mr. Devarajan took to Life Insurance and made such an impression on the British officials of the Company that they made a special visit to Jaffna to see this personality of unique competence. In accordance with the current educational requirements Mr. Devarajan had to write his books in the Tamil medium. His books on Book-Keeping, Commercial Arithmetic, and Elements of Commerce have been published by the Department of Official Languages at the Government Press. The books were found to be so rare and valuable that they are being translated into Sinhala through the translation in English.

At the height of his journalistic career he printed and published his own Newspaper called 'The Ramanathan' in memory of the revered leader. His editorials beamed of foresighted policies and justice to everybody. In recognition of his knowledge of Agriculture and Horticulture he was made the Managing Director of the Northern Province Agricultural Producers' Union. In fact, two of his cherished hobbies were rose-culture and the grafting of flowering and fruit trees.

In 1927, when Mahatma Gandhi visited, C. N. D. who was an ardent admirer of the Mahatma strove every nerve of his in the service of the Mahatma's cause. On the eve of the Mahatma's departure Mr. Devarajan rushed to the Mahatma who had already taken his seat in the train, and presented a purse which was the result of his own efforts. Gandhiji, out of his great affection took off a garland made of Kaddar yarn and in the presence of a milling crowd at the Jaffna Railway Station, garlanded Mr. Devarajan. The garland is still being preserved as a family heirloom at Sivanjali, Anicoddai, where the deceased passed away.

Mr Devarajan had a premonition of his impending death before his attainment of his 81st birthday. When the humble writer of this article

wrote to him expecting him to exceed the ninety year limit Mr. Devarajan replied that he would not survive up to his next birthday.

In the death of Mr Devarajan the country has lost a patriotic and noble soul who tried to do his best for the public for decades and decades. It will be difficult to come across people of his stature and worth. He has gone away from our midst, full of years, leaving behind a devoted wife, a loving daughter and two worthy sons.

**ORDER NISI**

In The District Court Of Jaffna

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 2672

In the matter of the intestate Estate of the Late Kanthappu Thambipillai of Kiluwana, Kalapoomy, Karainagar Deceased

Visaladeby widow of Kanthappu Thambipillai of Kiluwana, Kalapoomy Karainagar

Vs. Petitioner

- 1 Kanthappu Ambalavanar of Karainagar presently of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia
- 2 Kanthappu Sinnathamby
- 3 Sinnathamby Arumugam and wife,
- 4 Valliammai
- 5 Suppar Arumugam and wife
- 6 Sellammah
- 7 Sinnappillai widow of Velupillai Kanapathipillai all of Karapiddiyanthanai, Kalapoomy Karainagar

Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before A. Vythialingam Esquire, District Judge Jaffna on the 15th day of December, 1970 in the presence of Mr. K. Gunaratnam, Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the petition and affidavit of the Petitioner dated the 15th day of December, 1970 having been read;

It is ordered that the petitioner abovenamed as the widow of the deceased abovenamed be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration issued to her and such Letters of Administration be issued unless any persons or persons interested shall on or before the 14th day of March 1971 appear before this Court and show sufficient cause to the contrary.

This 15th day of December 1970.

Sgd A. Vythialingam District Judge, Jaffna

Drawn by Sgd K. Gunaratnam Proctor for Petitioner

Time to show cause is extended till 14-3-1971

(Sgd.) A. Vythialingam District Judge, Jaffna

Time to show cause extend ed till 10-7-1971

(Sgd.) A. Vythialingam District Judge, Jaffna

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**MahaKumpabishekam At Sri Raja-Rajeswary Ammal**

The Thevasthan Sabai of Navanmarkaddu Shri Raja Rajeswari Ammal has made elaborate arrangements for the Maha-Kumbabishekam on June 30, 1971 leading High Priests of the Peninsula have undertaken the performance of the religious ceremonies.

**ORDER NISI**

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 2727

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Arulanantham Balaswaran of Neervely Deceased

Punithavathy widow of Arulanantham Balaswaran of 'Bala Vasa' Neervely

Vs. Petitioner

Minor 1 Balananthu daughter of A. Balaswaran

2 Pachiyavathy widow of V. Arulanantham, both of 'Bala Vasa' Neervely

Respondents

The 1st Respondent is a minor appearing by her guardian-ad-litem the 2nd Respondent

This matter of the Petition of the Petitioner abovenamed coming on for disposal before A. Vythialingam Esquire, District Judge, Jaffna on the 28th day of April 1971, in the presence of Mr. W. V. Uttukumaraswamy, Proctor on the part of the petitioner, and the affidavit of the petitioner having been read and filed of record;

It is ordered (a) that the 2nd Respondent abovenamed be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the 1st minor Respondent for the purposes of representing the said 1st minor Respondent in these testamentary proceedings and (b) that the Petitioner abovenamed as the lawful widow of the abovenamed deceased be declared entitled to the grant of Letters of Administration in respect of the above estate and that she be appointed Administratrix thereof unless the Respondents abovenamed or any other person interested in the above estate shall on or before the 27th day of July 1971 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

And it is further ordered that the 2nd Respondent shall appear and produce the abovenamed 1st minor Respondent before this Court on the aforesaid date.

Jaffna, this 28th day of April 1971.

Sgd A. Vythialingam District Judge

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**Arunasalam Sathasivampillai**

(Continued from page 5)

year, he became Headmaster of the Female Boarding School in Uduvil.

(To be continued)

