

MEDICINE UNDER THE ROYAL PATRONAGE OF ASAFIA KINGS

S. A. HUSSAIN*

ABSTRACT

This article is a translation work of some portion of Islami Tibb, written by Rehber Farooqui. It deals with the state of medicine during the reigns of the two kings of Nizam dynasty, viz. Nawab Afzeluddaula Behadur and Nawab Mir Mehboob Ali Khan Behadur, the Fifth and the Sixth Nizams respectively. In this period medical department along with the other departments came into existence. The Unani medicine also assumed a separate and distinct entity. It also gives the history of Unani medical school and clinics started in the city of Hyderabad. Short biographies of the eminent physicians flourished during the above period. medical literary works done by them, the statements of these Unani physicians submitted to the king on some important occasions and the royal addresses in their reply have also been given here.

Patronage of Medicine by Afzeluddaula Behadur :

In Ramazan 1273 A.H. (1858 A.D.) Afzeluddaula Behadur (Nizam the fifth) adorned the throne of Deccan and in 1283 A.H. (1868 A.D.) during his reign, organization of the entire Nizam's dominion took place and a number of reforms were introduced and many departments were established. During the same period the medical, municipal and education departments came into existence.

Hospitals and schools were opened in the districts also. A big hospital (Afzalgunj Hospital) was constructed in the city of Hyderabad in which excellent arrangements were made for the stay and food for the patients¹. The following were the famous Unani physicians during his reign. Some of them had also began to practise allopathy and Unani medicine side by side.

Here we produce the Verbatim notification which was issued prior to the inauguration of this hospital.

- i. The hospital at Afzalgunj shall be inaugurated on next Monday at 8 O'Clock.
- ii. Every sick person who is pauper, no matter to what religion or caste he belongs shall be entitled to appear at 8 O'Clock for getting medical treatment and for taking medicine every day except on Friday, and he shall get medical advice and medicine. But it is necessary that the patient should appear before 8 O'Clock.

*Research Assistant (U) I.I.H.M. Hyderabad.

**1. Hakim Mohammed Ibrahim
son of Maulana Outubuddin :**

He was a physician in government clinic and he had no equal in identifying raw drugs and preparing medicines.

2. Hakim Shifae Khan :

His name was Mir Lutf-e-Ali and he was the descendent of Shifae Khan the first. He used to treat the patients with allopathic medicines also.

3. Hakim Nadir Ali :

This physician held a seat in the royal court. The famous date indicating verses, composed by Habeebullah Zeka in his honour are :

O, Life destroyer physician Nadir Ali
Health is always displeased with you
you did with Afzeluddaula
What did Ibn-e-Muljim with Ali
Murtuza
This is the date of the event

when the physician is fool the
patient dies - 1285 A.H.

4. Hakim Qemruddin

5. Hakim Vajed Ali Khan Dehlevi

6. Hakim Asif Ali Lukhnewi

7. Hakim Vazir Mirza

**8. Hakim Mohammed Jefer Husain
Benaresi :**

According to Abdul Aleem Nesrullah Khan, this physician was unparallel and he writes 'I am a witness to the fact that he had no equal in curing ascitis.'

9. Hakim Mirza Ali Shah

**10. Hakim Mirza Ali
(Physician of Prison)**

11. Hakim Mohammed Mirza :

He was an expert in the identification of herbs.

12. Hakim Mohammed Vazir :

He was a physician in Government Shifakhana (clinic). Abdul Aleem Nas-

-
- iii. On behalf of the Govt. Hakim Mohammed Vazeer has been appointed in the hospital with full powers and the above said person shall personally examine each and every patient and he shall direct the treatment to be given to the patients.
- iv. Since the preparation of most of the medicines take some time patience is necessary.
- v. It is also necessary for each and every patient to bring along with him a neat and clean glass bottle or cup for taking medicines.
- vi. If the case is so urgent that, the delay in treating is harmful to the patient, then such patient may go to the hospital at any time. He shall get medicine at all times. But in case of other patients it is necessary that they should reach the hospital within the prescribed timings.
- vii. Since medical advice and medicines are given by the government the patient should not pay any expenses for the treatment.
- viii. No medicine shall be purchased from the hospital.
- ix. It is decided by the government that, some rooms should be provided in the hospital for a period of few weeks so that the patient may stay for treatment. When all the necessary arrangements are made, rules shall be formed and issued in respect of the patients who may occupy and reside in the rooms. Dated 22 Rabiul Awal 1283 A.H. a notification in Urdu was also issued after some days of this (persian) one.

rullah Khan writes in his book 'Tareekh Deccan' An Arab came to me and his companion said to me that he yawned and his mouth remained opened in the same way. Therefore, I sent him to Hakim Mohammed Vazir. The Hakim treated him so well that he was completely cured of the disease.

PROGRESS OF MEDICINE DURING THE REIGN OF NEWAB MIR MEHBOOB ALI KHAN BEHADUR

His Highness Asif Jah the Sixth Newab Mir Mehboob Ali Khan ascended the throne when he was an infant in 1285 A.H. (1868 A.D.). It is not possible to write down fully the progress of Unani medicine during his reign. The popularity of his highness and his patronage of learned and eminent persons had spread through out India.

15th Tir 1300 Fasli (1889 A.D.) was the most auspicious day so far as Unani medicine is concerned because on that day a fundamental work was started i.e. the department of Unani medicine was established. During the ministership of late Newab Asman Jah Behadur and owing to his great sympathy towards arts and sciences, the Unani medicine assumed a separate and distinct entity.

Three Unani Shifakhanas (Govt. clinics) and one Unani medical school were established along with the department. The first Shifa khana was called Seder Shifa Khana (Unani

General Hospital) and the second and third were called Shifa Khana Husaini Alam and Shifa Khana Beroon Belda. Among the physicians Hakim Ahmed Sayeed was appointed as Afserul Atibba. Hakim Mirza Ishaq Ali and Hakim Newab Mirza were appointed as physicians. The school was also kept under the control of Afserul Atibba. The administration of the department was kept under the supervision of a special board which was called "Mejlis-e-Intezami Metab-e-Unani". This board continued to discharge its duties till 1306 F. (1896 A.D.) subsequently the government abolished the said board and the management was handed over to to a 'Board of Directors'. This board worked from 9th Khurdad 1306 F. (13 April 1896 A.D.) to 16 Mehr 1306 F. (Aug. 1896 A.D.). Thereafter the board submitted its resignation which was accepted. On account of this, there was no longer any intermediate authority between the government and the Afserul Atibba and the Afserul Atibba began direct correspondence with the government and till that time the Shifa Khanas (Govt. Clinics) were linked with Secretariate. Hakim Ahmed Sayeed died on 18th Khurdad 1305 F. (1895 A.D.) and in his place Dr. & Hakim Mohibb-e-Husain Falesoof Jung was appointed as the Afserul Atibba. On 6th Behman 1317 F. (1907 A.D.) he too died and then Hakim Altaf Husain Hazeq Jung was appointed as the Afserul Atibba in his place.

In the reign of the late King (Newab Afzuluddaula Behadur) only, the post of Nazir-ul-Atibba was created. In 1316 F. (1906 A.D.) the department of Unani medicine consisted of one Afserul Atibba, two physicians, six assistant physicians and one teacher of the school. The total number of ministerial staff including clerks and pharmacists was 39. In this way there were 49 people under the control of the department. Thereafter Magzen-e-Advia (Godown) was established under the control of this department in which one Daroga (incharge) and four employees were appointed. At that time the annual expenditure of the department was about Rs. 15,000/- or Rs. 20,000/-.

In 1308 F (1898 A.D.) seven lakhs people were treated by the Unani dispensaries in Hyderabad city and the districts.

The Asif Jah VI celebrated his 33rd birthday in 1316 A.H. (1899 A.D.). Different groups of the subjects including a group of Unani physicians submitted their statements out of devotion to the King. The King was very pleased on hearing the address of this group. He not only admitted their services but also recited a royal poem in praise of Unani medicine and its scholars which added immensely to the honour and glory of the profession. This royal patronage deserves to be written in golden letters in the History of Unani medicine.

The Nizam while addressing Unani physicians including all groups says "I am very pleased to call you here and receive your addresses. I deemed it proper to receive the addresses of the subjects i.e. all the three groups of you at a time that is, members of city association, Unani physicians and the members of Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad city because although your rights and duties are apparently different yet your purpose is one. All of you have the same aim that is cleanliness. The city association aims at good manner and affability, the Unani physicians have the aim of cleaning the human body from the impurities of diseases and the members of the municipal corporation aim at cleaning the streets of Hyderabad city and supplying potable water to the citizens. Thus, the attainment of your common goal results in the welfare of my beloved subjects. I therefore highly appreciate your efforts and I had great satisfaction on hearing your addresses to learn that you have succeeded in your efforts to a certain extent and that you aspire to have full success in your aims. I have entrusted to you the protection of lives of my subjects and I am sure that all of you are fully aware of this trust and you will leave no stone unturned in receiving my pleasure on attaining this goal. To keep the heart clean (whole heartedness) is more valuable than the celebrated mirror of Alexander the Great. Care of other's life is worth more than ones own life.

During my reign are present expert physicians, what bounty has been bestowed on me by the Almighty healing God.

Health is more valuable than any wealth in the world. Man will be seeking it through out his life.

Boqrat, Soqrat and Jalinoos are dead and gone. Now the present physicians are the loqman of their time. Only these people are the protectors of life in this world. Now or ly these people are the Messiah on this earth in the present times.

The humours are divided into four on the basis of four elements. The physicians cure the patients by normalising these four humours.

When the diseases opposing each other occur in the body, these physicians cure the patient easily. Physicians fall ill while caring for the sick. They never have single moment of comfort till the patients are cured.

O'God, increase the number of the masters that are present here, they are efficient and expert Hakims.

O'God, it is the only prayer of Asif to thee that my subjects may always live happily and merrily.

The following year in 1317 A.H. (1900 A.D.) when the birth day (of Nizam VI) was celebrated, the Unani physicians were once again given the

honour of presenting an address to exhibit their life long devotion to the Nizam. On this occasion the same royal favour was shown towards them. The speech of the King inspired a new life into the body of Unani medical science.

"Heath is greatest wealth of human being. For this, first of all we require the grace of God. The physicians have to pay as much attention towards the patients and to diagnose correctly as it is necessary for patients to abstain from eating unwholesome victuals. It is bounden duty of allopaths and Unani physicians to take care of the medicines. Two things do not return when they are gone: one is life and the other is honour. If we have our life, we have the entire world and if we have honour, we have life. The wise men take great care of these two, through out thier lives. I am also greatly pleased to hear that you have adopted a very good method of progressing in your art and that you have commemorated my birthday by means of it. Your medical journal is a journal through which you cannot only convey your achievements to each other, you can also train the thoughts of the public in general in accordance with your ideas. I highly appreciate the fact that, you are publishing the said journal in both English and Urdu. By this, we can expect that the two schools of medicine, oriental and western will co-mingle in such a way

that the virtues and vices of each school will be disclosed to each other and the main stream of this science will progress and in fact such progress in your science is a progress towards the welfare of the public in general which I appreciate from the depths of my heart.

I highly appreciate such efforts on your part and assure my pleasure for you as much as you continue to sympathise with the miseries and hardships of my beloved subjects and try to ameliorate their condition and you are busy in protecting their health. I pray to the Almighty that by his grace he may always grant you success in your efforts of good will.

After this he also recited a piece of poetry.

* I express my thanks to Allah because I receive news about the health of my subjects from everywhere.

They are busy in performing duties day and night. The Unani physicians who are skillful in their art and the allopaths who are perfect in their science.

I have heard that it is a principle of medicine that the prescription should have single drug or no matter it comprises a few ingredients.

Medicine is as useful in curing the disease as prayer serves like a

shield against the sword of death.

Man should not be proud of his perfection no matter how expert or experienced he may be.

The science of medicine depends upon guess but it requires correct perception. Of course it is natural the physicians sometimes fail in their diagnosis.

Audience should know that Asif believes that only God cures us of our diseases, therefore we should look to him for our recovery."

The eminent physicians, flourished during the reign of this king are as

1. Hakim Iftikhar Ali Khan :
He was born in 1247 A.H. (1831 A.D.) His father's name was Hakim Mir Inayet Ali Khan. He was one of the family member of Shifaeekhan. He was appointed in Unani Medical department on a salary of Rs. 200/- per month. He left three treatises as his keepsake.

1. Feehi Shifa un Lin Nas (Printed).
2. Madda tul Hayat-For the treatment of children and pregnant women.
3. Guldesta-e-Sehhat-on Six essential factors.

2. Hakim Ruknuddin Ahmed :
He was born in Lohara Village, Owsa taluq, Osmanabad district in 1281 A.H. (1865 A.D.). He had also acquired experience in allopathy. He was an eminent scholar. He joined

service in Unani medical department in 1308 A.H. (1891 A.D.)

3. Hakim Syed Rafiuddin :

He was an inhabitant of Aurangabad. At first he studied allopathy on government scholarship in 1278 A.H. (1862 A.D.) in the days of Dr. Window. He was appointed on the post of first assistant in Sedar Shifa Khana (Unani General hospital) on a salary of Rs. 200/- per month. He was also appointed at the royal palace. He worked temporarily as Afserul Atibba also.

4. Hakim Ashiq Husain Khan, Hyderabad :

He was the younger brother of Hakim Iftikhar Ali Khan. He was born in 1275 A.H. (1859 A.D.). He was a penman, and wrote two books - 1. Farog-e-Atibba (in verse) 2. Tiryaq-e-Semoom.

5. Hakim Altaf Husain Khan :

He was the son of Hakim Mir Inayat Ali Khan and the younger brother of Hakim Iftikhar Husain Khan & Hakim Khursheed Ali Khan Shafi Newaz Jung. He was born in 1269 A.H. (1853 A.D.). In the beginning he was appointed as assistant to Hakim Mohibb-e-Husain on a salary of Rs. 200/- per month. Later he was appointed as Afserul Atibba. The titles of Iftikharul Hukema and Hazeq Jung were conferred upon him by the court of Nizam. At present his eldest son Maulvi Hakim Syed Serferaz

Husain Khan is serving the public as Superintendent of Unani clinic, Husaini Alem.

6. Hakim Abdul Aziz Khan :

He was born in 1250 A.H. (1834 A.D.) in Arcot a village of Madras. In 1281 A.H. (1865 A.D.) he came to Hyderabad during the reign of Afzeluddaula Behadur and in 1304 A.H. (1888 A.D.) he came to the court of Late Nizam VI and was appointed as physician to the king. In 1316 A.H. (1899 A.D.) the title of Tabeeb-e-Khas (Royal physician) was also bestowed upon him. He was granted a salary of Rs. 600/- per month from royal palace in 1306 A.H. (1889 A.D.).

7. Hakim Mohammed Ali Hyderabad :

He was born in village, Ibrahimpatnam in 1270 A.H. (1854 A.D.). He treated one of the maids of the Nizam miraculously. Her name was Mama Lalen, who was suffering from unconsciousness. The people deemed her to be dead and were making preparations for her funeral. But the said Hakim treated her so efficiently that, she became conscious and recovered fully.

Another episode about his treatment has also become famous. It is written that, when Newab Yousuf Ali Khan, the Salar Jung Behadur-I, was in the womb of his mother all the midwives after examination had told that it was not pregnancy but a kind

of tumour which would prove to be injurious in future, which caused apprehension. But, this Hakim examined her, diagnosed it as pregnancy and continued to treat her. After the time prescribed by him, she gave birth to a son.¹

8. Hakim Mohammed Amanet Ali:

He was one of the most famous physicians of Hyderabad. Originally his ancestor Mohammed Ali had come from Delhi to Hyderabad by the order of Sultan Ibrahim Qutub Shah and was appointed as the physician of Royal palace. Hakim Mohammed Amanet Ali was born in 1280 A.H. (1864 A.D.). He learnt allopathy along with Unani medicine. The fame of his treatment spread through out the city and he was appointed as the physician of royal palaces. His eldest son Hakim Mehmood Ali has gained similar name and fame, working as assistant physician in Seder Shifa Khana - Unani General Hospital.

9. Hakim & Doctor

Mohibb-e-Husain :

He was granted the title of Failesoof Jung by the royal court. He was appointed as Afserul Atibba after Hk. Ahmed Sayeed. He was a learned man and had a great experience in medicine. He had a valuable library which had no parallel to it at that time. It was purchased for Asifia

Kutub Khana (State Central Library) after his death.

One of his sons, Ali Hussain is working as Superintendent Shifa Khana, Heri Baoli (Govt. Clinic).

10. Hakim Shamsudin Khan Behadur :

He was the son of the author of the book 'Tareekh-e-Khursheed Jahi'. During the vicegerency of Umdetul mulk he joined the royal staff. In 1293 A.H. (1877 A.D.) he attended the English emperor's court along with the Nizam. He was acquainted with allopathic medicine also. In 1302 A.H. (1886 A.D.) at the time of celebration of the king's birthday the titles of Khan and Shemsul Hukema were conferred upon him. He died in 1320 A.H. (1904 A.D.).

11. Shifaul Mulk Shifae Khan Behadur :

He was the maternal grand son of Shifae Khan I. The Nizam conferred on him the titles of his maternal grandfather i.e. Shifa Jung, Shifa-ud-Daula, Shifaul Mulk, Shifae Khan Behadur and appointed him as the Superintendent of the clinic of royal palace. He was conferred the title of 'Khan Behadur' on 1308 A.H. (1892 A.D.) the title 'Daula' in 1312 A.H. (1896 A.D.) and the title 'Mulk' in 1323 A.H. (1907 A.D.)

1. Tuzek-e-Mehboobia vol. 2, chapter 6 of physicians, page 25.

12. Hakim Syed Abdul Wahhab Ansari :

He was famous in Hyderabad by the name of Hakim Nabina. He was expert in pulse reading. His remedies are still remembered in Hyderabad. He had gained the fame during the period of Nizam VI. Thereafter he left Hyderabad.

13. Hakim Khurshed Ali Khan :

He was the brother of Hakim Hazeq Jung Behadur, Afserul Atibba. He was conferred the titles of Khurshedul Hukema and Shafee Newaz Jung by the Nizam. He was the Superintendent of Shifa Khana, Hussaini Alam.

14. Hakim Rukna :

He had no parallel in 'Misri'¹ treatment and gained very good name.

15. Hakim Mohammed Mansoor Ali Khan Muradabadi :

He was a great scholar and God

fearing man. He was the Head Master of Medarsa Tibabet (Unani Medical School) Govt. of Hyderabad. The great Aristocrates were fond of meeting him. But he was so selfless and God fearing that he never cared the pomp and power of any grandee. By his teaching he made thousands of his students eminent scholars in Hyderabad. He wrote a number of books, out of which some books have been published. Maqsood Ali Khan is his worthy son who not only enriched his ancestral learning but also gifted with administrative capacity. Thus at the time of his appointment on the post of Afserul Atibba (Chief Physician), Nizam VII issued his firman in the following words. I hope, by the appointment of Hakim Maqssod Ali Khan, reforms will be made in the department very soon, since he has administrative capacity by nature.

1. Ayurvedic method of treatment. The word *Misri* has already been discussed in the Bulletin IIHM Vol. XIV, page 42.

सारांश

इस्लामी तिब्ब

(लेखक—रेहबर फारूकी)

भाषान्तर कर्ता — एस. ए. हुसैन

यह लेख रेहबर फारूकी कृत 'इस्लामी तिब्ब' नामक पुस्तक के एक भाग का भाषान्तर है। इसमें निज़ाम वंश के दो राजाओं—पांचवे निज़ाम नवाब अफज़लदौला बहाद्दुर तथा छठे निज़ाम नवाब मीर मेहबूब अली खान बहाद्दुर के काल में आयुर्विज्ञान की स्थिति को दर्शाया गया है। इस काल में अन्य विभागों के साथ २ आयुर्विज्ञान विभाग की भी स्थापना हुई। यूनानी चिकित्सा पद्धती को भी एक स्वतन्त्र व प्रमुख अस्तित्व प्राप्त हुआ। हैदराबाद नगर में यूनानी चिकित्सा पद्धती की शिक्षा संस्था व यूनानी चिकित्सालयों के आरम्भ के इतिहास की जानकारी भी इस में दी गई है। इस काल के प्रमुख चिकित्सकों की संक्षिप्त जीवनीयों, उनके द्वारा किये गये किञ्चित्सीय साहित्यक कार्यों, विशेष अवसरों पर उन यूनानी चिकित्सकों द्वारा राजा की सेवा में प्रस्तुत वक्तव्यों तथा उनके प्रत्युत्तर में राजा द्वारा दिये गये भाषणों का भी यहाँ उल्लेख किया गया है।

