

MEDICINE AND ALLIED SCIENCES IN ŚIVATATTVARATNĀKARA

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ABSTRACT

Information on medicine and many other sciences is available in non-medical literature which deserves the attention of scholars. Śivatattvaratnākara is an encyclopaedic work by Basavappa Nayaka who ruled from Keladi in Karnataka from 1694 to 1714 A. D. The treatise in nine sections is a compilation from various earlier texts and covers varied subjects like cosmology, astronomy, horticulture, medicine, alchemy, weaponry, erotics, vocational livelihood, sports and pastime and philosophy etc. Medicine and allied subjects are elaborated in 5th, 6th and 7th sections. Some of the sources mentioned are Vatsyāyana, Gauri, Rasaratnākara, Haramekhala, Vāgbhaṭa, Vidyānāthīya etc.

It is common knowledge that good amount of information on medicine and many other sciences is available in the non-medical literature of our country and this has not been given the attention it deserves. Dr. D. V. Subba Reddy had been very rightly pointing out the urgent need of such studies especially by those interested in history of Indian medicine. He initiated it by getting published, the medical portion of Mānasollāsa - a popular encyclopaedic work of

the 12th cent. A. D. and also the medical lore in Sanskrit dramas, arthaśāstra etc. Here is an attempt, to acquaint the interested, with references to medicine and allied sciences from another great work - the Śivatattvaratnākara.

Similar to Mānasollāsa, the Śivatattvaratnākara is also an encyclopaedia of ancient Indian learning. Its author - Basavappa Nāyaka (Basavabhūpāla or Basavarāja) was a famous king of a feudal state of

Kelaḍi (also known as Ikkeri and Bidanur) which comprised of the coastal areas of Karnataka in the east. He ruled from 1694 to 1714 A. D. and brought prosperity to the kingdom. He belonged to Vīraśaiva sect and revived ancient Hindu tradition. He was a great scholar and a patron of learning. He is the author of two more works also - viz., *Subhāṣita Suradhama* in Sanskrit and *Sūktisudhākara* in Kannada language. But his magnum opus is undoubtedly the *Śivatattvarāka*.¹ The treatise was intended to educate his son, prince *Śomaśekhara Nāyaka*, in all branches of ancient Indian knowledge.

The treatise consists of nine *kallolas* (tide=section), each one having many *taraṅgas* (waves= chapters) which are one hundred and eight in total, with an impressive number of thirty thousand verses of different meters, in Sanskrit language. As can be expected, it is a compilation from various earlier texts and the author has magnanimously enumerated his sources at the end of every section. Commencing with the Vedas, the sources extend over the whole gamut of ancient Indian literature - philoso-

phical, religious, literary, scientific, historical, social and others. Important among the sciences dealt with are - cosmology, astronomy, meteorology, geology, agriculture, horticulture, medicine - human, veterinary and horticultural, chemistry, alchemy, metallurgy pyrotechniques, weaponry, defence sciences, toxicology, erotics, astrology, town-planning, public health and sanitation, statecraft, finance, trade and commerce, vocations of livelihood, sports and pastime, arts and crafts etc. Philosophical systems and doctrines, religions, worship of gods, traditions, etc. are also dealt with. In addition to ancient knowledge, it also describes contemporary matters such as history of Vijayanagar empire, the kingdoms of Kelaḍi, Mysore and Coorg; the colonisation of Portuguese, French and British, life and achievements of Basavarāja, the 12th century saint - minister of King Bijjala of Kalyāṇa and the propagator of Vīraśaivism, the doctrines, philosophy and rituals of that sect, etc., the chapters on these subjects being interspersed in the text. Thus with a brief description of everything under the sun (including the Sun also) this voluminous treatise stands out as a useful reference manual of Indology.

1. It was first published by the Government Oriental Manuscript Library, Madras in 1927. Its second and revised edition has been brought out by the Oriental Research Institute, University of Mysore in 1965 (Vol. I), 1969 (Vol. II) and 1972 (Vol. III).

Medicine (Ayurveda) and some sciences allied to it, form the chief subject matter of the fifth, sixth and seventh *kallolas* (sections). The

following table furnishes the details of topics found therein.

Kallola (Section) 5

Taraṅga (Chapter) 1

Kārajñāna (foretelling) and ariṣṭalak-
ṣaṇa (signs of oncoming death)—145
verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 2

Svapnaphala (auspicious and inaus-
picious dreams, their effects and
remedies)—72 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 3

Śakuna (auspicious and inauspicious
omens and remedial measures)—115
verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 10

Upavana Vinoda (horticulture and
Botony)—141 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 11

Tarucikitsa - Vṛkṣāyurveda (horticul-
tural medicine)—97 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 12 & 13

Kāmaśāstra (Sexology)—139 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 14, 15 & 16

Upabhogas - pleasures of gandha
(perfumes) mālyā (garlands) vastra
(dress) ābhūṣaṇa (jewels) etc.—283
verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 17

Ratnaśāstra (gemology) tests of
precious stones, valuation etc.—187
verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 18

Vividha āhāra (different kinds of
food)

Viṣaparīkṣā (tests for poisonous
foods, drinks, etc)—315 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 19

Bhakṣya Nirmāṇa - Preparation of
different kinds of eatables, dishes
etc.—315 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 20

Bhojanavidhi (dietetics) Tāmbūla,
Śayyābhoga (chewing of beetle-
leaf, comfort sleeping) etc.—194
verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 21

Medicine (Vaidyaśāstra) Āyurveda
and its eight branches, tridoṣasiddh-
ānta, Nāḍīparīkṣa (pulse reading)

Auśadha guṇas (materia medica)
Auśadhasaṅgrahaṇa (procedure of
collecting herbs)—208 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 22

Pathya āhāra (suitable and healthy
foods & drinks) - iatrochemistry -
Mahārasas (Ores and minerals) -
Lohas (metals) (their purification,
oxidation, etc.) eight famous mineral
medicinal formulae—129 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 23

Alchemy (rasāyana) - rasa (mercury) its kinds, habitat, purification, worship etc. Sādharana rasas (salts, alkalies, etc. and their purification, incineration (calcination) etc.—141 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 24

Alchemy (contd) - rasasaṁskāras (The 18 mercurial operations) preparation of elixirs of life - transmutation of metals etc.—195 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 25

Alchemy (contd) - Rasaśāla (laboratory) Yantra, mūṣa, puṭa etc. (apparatus and other appliances)—87 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 26

Toxicology (viṣa - vijñāna) - kinds of snakes, scorpions etc.—109 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 27

Toxicology (viṣacikitsā) - Treatment of snake-bite and poisons of other poisonous animals) - vegetable and artificial poison etc.—142 verses.

Kallola (Section) 7**Taraṅga (Chapter) 7**

Paediatrics - Kumārabharaṇa (bringing up of children, child care etc.)—124 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 8

Horāśāstra, Jātakaphala - Horoscope, Astrology etc.—128 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 9

Physiognomy (female)—145 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 10

Physiognomy (male)—207 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 11

Gajaśāstra - Gajacikitsā (science of elephants, their treatment)—225 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 12

Aśvaśāstra - Aśvacikitsā (science of horses, their treatment) — 479 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 13

Go - paśucikitsā (science of cow & cattle, their treatment etc.)—479 verses.

Taraṅga (Chapter) 15

Yogaśāstra - Haṭhayoga - āsanās etc. —192 verses.

Apart from these, many other subjects related to personal and community health, sanitation, moral and right conduct, philosophy of life etc., are described in other chapters also.

Some of the authors and treatises enumerated as sources at the end of the sixth and seventh sections are Vātsyāyana, Śārṅgadhara, Nala, Gauri, Dhanvantari, Aśvins, Rasarat-nākara, Rasaḥḍaya, Haramekhālā,

Merutantra, Mānasollāsa, Kautuka-cintāmaṇi, Vāgbhaṭa, Amṛtanandi, Daśarupaka, Vidyānāthīya etc.

This brief survey is enough to convince the medical scientists about

the value and importance of this great work. A critical study is sure to furnish more knowledge both to the physician and medical historian alike.

सारांश

शिवतत्त्वरत्नाकर में चिकित्सा तथा सम्बद्ध विज्ञान

के० आर० श्रीकण्ठमूर्ती

चिकित्सा तथा विभिन्न विज्ञान की जानकारी गैर चिकित्सा साहित्य में उपलब्ध है जो कि विद्वानों के ध्यान के योग्य है। शिवतत्त्वरत्नाकर एक विश्वकोष है, जो कि बसवप्पा नायक, जिन्होंने कर्नाटक के कालडी में 1964 से 1714 ई. तक राज्य किया, द्वारा रचित है। इस ग्रन्थ के नौ भाग हैं जो पहले के विभिन्न ग्रन्थों में से सङ्कलित हैं तथा जिसमें अलग अलग विषय तथा ब्रह्माण्ड विज्ञान, खगोल विज्ञान, बागबानी, कीमिया, आयुधविज्ञान, कामशास्त्र, व्यावसायिक आजीविका, चिकित्सा, खेलकूद और दर्शनशास्त्र आदि सम्मिलित हैं। पाँचवें, छठवें तथा सातवें भाग में चिकित्सा तथा सम्बद्ध विषयों को विस्तृत रूप प्रदान किया गया है। वात्स्यायन, गौरी, रसरत्नाकर, हरमेखला, वाग्भट, विद्यानाथीय आदि कुछ उल्लेख किये गये स्रोत हैं।