

WHAT IS HINDUSTANI FOR SCURVY ?

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—1. Under the heading *Bādi*, or *Bā'i*, are included pains in the extremities, joints and muscles, especially the lower extremity. General dropsy is also called *Bādi*.

2. Any affection of the mouth, especially of the gums, such as inflammation of the gums, spongy gums, '*monh-se pani ata rat-ko*' (water coming from the mouth at night), is called *Bādi*.

3. Bruised appearances, extravasations, and fibrinous effusions into the muscles, rendering them hard and brawny, such as are met with in scurvy and purpura, are called *Bādi* or '*Bā'i*.'

4. The patient will say "*Bādi-ki bimari hamko hogeyihai*," i.e., I have got the disease of *Bādi* : or "*hamko Bādi hogeyahai*, i.e., I have got *Bādi*, or "*hamko Bādi-ne pakariyahai*," i.e., *Bādi* has seized me.

5. These signs and symptoms come on after fatigue, privation, and exposure, or in one word exposure.

6. When *Bādi* or *Bā'i* has been, or is being complained of, by men on service, or in cantonments, I have frequently met with signs and symptoms of more or less inflammation of the lining membrane of the alimentary canal, with or without fever, with perhaps enlargement of the spleen, &c.

7. At Buxa Bhutan, where '*monh-se pani ata rat-ko*' was a common sign, intense redness of all the inside of the mouth from lips to fauces and pharynx was seen. These were Poor-beah sepoys.

8. At Buxa Bhutan, a Gurkha, a civil employé, one day, in the hot weather or rains, drank water on an empty stomach. He fell down immediately, insensible, vomiting and purging blood. Some weeks or months afterwards he came to hospital with ascites or dropsy, and a brawny swelling on the front of the thigh, such as is met with in scurvy.

9. Sepoys complain often of a burning sensation in the epigastrium, flatulence, and looseness and irregularity of the bowels, and sometimes nausea and vomiting, and sometimes there is more or less blood in the vomited or purged material, with mucus perhaps, diarrhoea or dysentery, or gastric or enteric catarrh in fact is complained of.

10. Such men often complain that they are suffering from *Bādi*.

11. Men in such circumstances get scurvy, as I have seen in Afghanistan, and Chitral especially, but also in Buxa Bhutan, Burma, Manipur, and the North-West Frontier.

12. In the Indian troops of the Somaliland Field Force, with an average strength of 3,174, the number of cases of scurvy was equal to three times that of the whole army in India.

13. A Ward Orderly of the 1-2nd Gurkhas was with the Somaliland Field Force. He said that the men of the Indian troops, there, called their disease '*surra monh-ki bimari*.'

14. They said '*monh sarhgaya hai*,' i.e., the mouth is rotted.

They were Sikhs and Punjabis, and these men under such circumstances would often complain of *Bādi* or *Bā'i*.

15. The previous morning state list of diseases used to begin with fever (from '*febris*,' meaning trembling or weakness I suppose), catarrh, rheumatism, scurvy, *Bādi* or *Bā'i*. This is the usual sequence of disease in troops.

16. They first get fever or catarrh, or influenza which is epidemic catarrh, and then after more or greater exposure they get rheumatism or scurvy.

17. Indian troops in such a condition would be certain to say that they were suffering from '*Bādi*' or '*Bā'i*' and would like to go home in order to enjoy the relaxation and recreation to be obtained there. And no doubt this is the best remedy.

18. *Bādi* means wind. It also means flatulence. *Bā'i* means rheumatism, and it also means flatulence and wind.

'*Gant*' is the Urdu for joint. '*Gathiya Bāi*' is articular rheumatism, or wind in the joints.

'Catarrh' is an inflammation of the mucous membrane, from two Greek words meaning *down*, and *flow*.

The French for nasal catarrh is '*rhume de cerveau*.' The French for pneumonia is '*fluxion de poitrine*.'

*Reuma* is the Greek for fluxion.

Rheumatism seems to be a symbolic word, and seems to mean that the patient is suffering from signs and symptoms such as are met with in patients suffering from catarrh, i.e., rhume, or reuma, i.e., from fluxes or fluxions, i.e., from signs and symptoms brought on by exposure.

19. *Scurvy* seems to be another symbolic word. *Scurvy* is really an adjective, and one should say the scurvy disease, i.e., the disease in which scurf or scab on the skin is a sign.

20. *Scorbutic* seems also to be a symbolic word. It is said to come from '*schour*,' cleft, tear, or rupture, and '*buik*' or '*bauch*,' belly, i.e., German, Danish, or Dutch word.

21. *Bādi*, then, also I think may be a symbolic word. It means wind or flatulence.

Flatulence is a common sign in gastro-enteric catarrh, and other diseases of the alimentary canal.

22. People in tropical climates suffer from diseases of the digestive system, more than those in temperate climates.

23. Sepoys suffer from gastro-enteric catarrh, dysentery, &c., very commonly on service, and they very commonly complain of *Bādi* or *Bā'i*, i.e., flatulence which is a sign or symptom in such disease.

24. Such men often also have signs and symptoms more or less marked of scurvy, and when they have scurvy they say that they have *Bādi*.

25. In such patients the skin often is very scurfy : one can write one's name on the skin of their legs, with one's nail for instance.

26. Hence '*Bādi*' is a symbolical word. It is used to signify scurvy, and it also signifies the disease which preceded or accompanied it, i.e., *rhume* or *fluxion de ventre* as the French might say, or in plain English catarrh of the alimentary canal, in which flatulence might be expected.

This may or may not be coloured with scurvy, and thereby made worse.

Scorbutic dysentery is a known bad kind of dysentery.

27. Fever may or may not accompany these catarrhs, and perhaps this is what the French mean when they speak of a *Fièvre mauquense*.

28. And as malarial disease is known to exert its strength chiefly on the digestive system, exposure is still more likely to cause congestions or fluxions and fluxes in this system.

29. The signs and symptoms of purpura they also call *Bādi* or *Bā'i*.

30. In Chitral where I saw a marked outbreak of scurvy in the sepoys of the 29th P. I. in the winter of 1898-99, one man had a marked purpuric rash on the skin.

31. In the Century Dictionary Encyclopædia scurvy is also called purpura nautica.

32. In Chitral in 1898-99 cold weather of, there was a small but most fatal outbreak of cerebro-spinal fever. In the Century Dictionary Cyclopædia cerebro-spinal fever is called purpura maligna.

The men did not call cerebro-spinal fever *Bādi*, but scurvy and purpura they do call *Bādi*.

33. It is strange that in the Century Encyclopædia Dictionary there should be given a sort of connection between scurvy, purpura, and cerebro-spinal fever, when I remember that both scurvy and cerebro-spinal fever, and a marked purpuric rash in one case of scurvy, occurred altogether in Chitral in 1898-99, cold weather.

34. The late Surgeon-General Hilson, when he was Civil Surgeon of Agra in 1886, told me of another symbolic Urdu word.

35. This word is '*Nazzla*.' It means nasal catarrh. But it is used to describe a person whose hair is prematurely getting grey, and whose vision is prematurely defective, and whose teeth are getting loose, and are being lost prematurely.

Such a person suffers from a kind of headache.

36. I have never met with this word, so it is perhaps more used in the civil population.

Yours, &c.,

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EAR DOUCHE IN THE TREATMENT OF DELIRIUM IN PLAGUE CASES.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—Every one must have noted the feeling of warmth produced by merely closing the external auditory meatus in cold weather.

Inferring that circulation even in such a small area as the auditory canal must be affecting the general circulation and particularly the cerebral one, ear douche with cold water at ordinary temperature was tried in delirium in plague cases. Unfortunately there was no opportunity to note its effects on an extensive scale in a systematic way ; however in the two cases in which its trial was possible, the effect was marvellous. In both cases a few minutes' douche was enough to keep the patient quiet and to control the delirium ; sleep for a few hours also followed. The douche in one case was given only once every day at night with the object of procuring sleep, and in another case it was found necessary to give the same three times a day for six days. The treatment deserves an extensive trial on account of its easy applicability, it ought to prove extremely useful in mofussil towns and villages where ice cannot be had and where people have a great aversion for continuous cold lotions and where, therefore, the results are most disappointing as one has merely to rely on internal medication only. Besides its effect is much more rapid than that produced by cold lotion or ice-bag.

Yours, &c.,

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