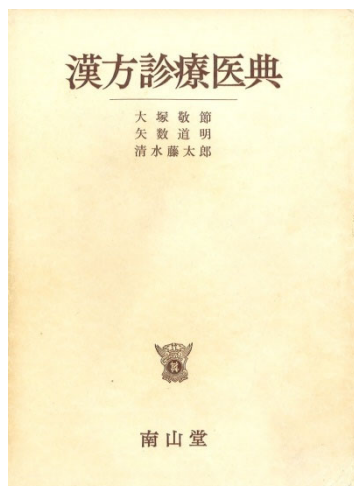


Editorial

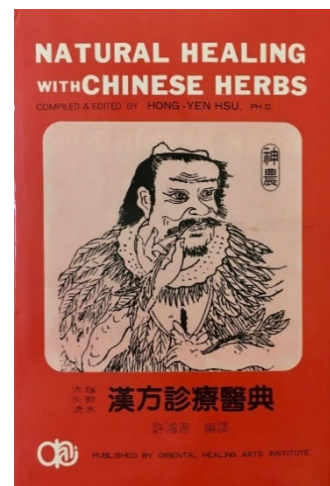
Transition of Indications for Kampo Medicine in Japan

Before Western medicine was introduced to Japan, any diseases were indicative of Kampo medicine. In 1869, following the Meiji Restoration, the new Japanese government adopted German medicine as well as the medical education and the system as a standard. Though remarkable progression had been made in some basic medicines such as pathology and bacteriology and development in public health, western therapeutic science around that time was still developing; a definitive way to treat diseases was not established. On the other hand, Kampo medicine had shown many therapeutic effects with application of appropriate prescription use for many diseases in its long history.

Japanese traditional medicine once declined was reviewed in the 1930's for its prominent therapeutic effects and for many literatures that a few excellent Kampo doctors left with favorable results of their treatment. These became a foundation of today's Kampo medicine. "Practice of Clinical Kampo medicine"(1941) was a representative book that these doctors wrote, which attracted an attention from medical community of the day. It was later revised upon request of the times and was published in 1969 under the name of "Norm of Kampo Medicine". This book was translated into English by Hong-yen Hsu from Taiwan and published in the United States in 1982 under the name "Natural Healing with Chinese Herbs".



Norm of Kampo medicine



Natural Healing with Chinese Herbs

Meanwhile, western medicine has developed significantly in the last half century and treatment methods have also advanced. With the development of modern Western medicine, a number of clinical indications of Kampo medicine have been steadily decreasing, and completely changed from 50 years ago.

Antimicrobial and antiviral agents took over and became a main street in the treatment of infectious diseases. The latest science created a large number of medications in all areas. A method that injects medication directly into the blood vessel was developed and advances in surgery have made it possible to treat areas that no one had been imagined before.

Under these circumstances, a number of clinical indications for Kampo medicine were greatly reduced, but instead, therapeutic areas indicative of Kampo medicine have clearly been highlighted. It is a new therapeutic field in which Western and Kampo medicines are integrated. In the future, Kampo medicine will acquire new indications in the new world.

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