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SUBJ: TRADITIONAL MEDICINE BEING VIEWED AS LESS 'MYSTERIOUS'

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0757 GMT 11 NOV 91

TEXT:

//((REPORT BY XINHUA CORRESPONDENT WANG ZIZHEN))

((TEXT)) BEIJING, NOVEMBER 11 (XINHUA) -- IT OFTEN SEEMED MYSTERIOUS TO A CHINESE PATIENT, NOT TO MENTION A FOREIGNER, THAT A DOCTOR OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE, WITH HIS THREE FINGERS FEELING THE PULSE, COULD DIAGNOSE AN INTERNAL AILMENT.

WHEN THE DOCTOR TOLD THE PATIENT ABOUT HIS SYNDROME, THE LATTER WOULD BECOME MORE PERPLEXED THOUGH HE OFTEN NODDED IN CONSENT.

FURTHER EXPLANATIONS OFTEN FAILED TO HELP THE PATIENT UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE OF HIS DISEASE IF THE DOCTOR USED HIS PROFESSIONAL TERMS SUCH AS DEFICIENCY OF YIN, FLOATING OF YANG, STAGNATION OF QI OR CONSUMPTION OF FLUID.

HOWEVER, TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE HAS BECOME LESS MYSTERIOUS THANKS TO THE ADOPTION OF MODERN DIAGNOSTIC MEANS, A COMBINATION OF MODERN NATURAL SCIENCE WITH THE TRADITIONAL THERAPIES AND RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS FIELD.

ONLY 10 YEARS AGO, A WRIST CUSHION (FOR PULSE FEELING), A TABLE AND A CHAIR WERE ALMOST ALL THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR A DOCTOR OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE. NOWADAYS, X-RAY APPARATUS, ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH, FIBERBROCHOSCOPE, GASTROFIBERSCOPE, B-ULTRASONIC TOMOGRAPHY, AND COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) ARE COMMON IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, THE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE OF THE MOST PROMINENT TRADITIONAL MEDICINE DOCTORS, BEST PRESCRIPTIONS AND EFFECTIVE THERAPIES HAVE BEEN COMPUTERIZED.

AIDED BY MODERN APPARATUS, DOCTORS CAN JUDGE CASES RAPIDLY AND ACCURATELY AND SELECT A MORE EFFECTIVE PRESCRIPTION OR THERAPY FROM THE BEGINNING OF TREATMENT RATHER THAN WRITING A TRIAL FORMULA FIRST

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AND ADJUSTING IT A FEW DAYS LATER IN LINE WITH THE PATIENT'S REACTION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CASE, THE DOCTORS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CAN ALSO GIVE A MORE SATISFACTORY ANSWER.

MANY PATIENTS SAY THAT TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE SEEMS LESS MYSTERIOUS NOW AND MORE PEOPLE BELIEVE THE TRADITIONAL THERAPIES RELIEVE AILMENTS FASTER THAN BEFORE.

FASTER AND MORE ACCURATE DIAGNOSES, BETTER RESULTS AND FEWER SIDE-EFFECTS HAVE STIMULATED DEMAND FOR TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE. STATISTICS SHOW THAT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE PATIENTS ARE VISITING HOSPITALS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE.

TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND, MANY PROVINCES AND REGIONS HAVE INVESTED HEAVILY IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN RECENT YEARS.

FOR INSTANCE, SICHUAN, THE MOST POPULOUS PROVINCE WHICH HAS OVER 100 MILLION PEOPLE, HAS OVERHAULED ALL THE HOSPITALS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS WITH EACH HOSPITAL ADDING APPARATUS WORTH MORE THAN 100,000 YUAN.

SHENZHEN CITY, BORDERING HONG KONG, INVESTED OVER 20 MILLION YUAN (ABOUT FOUR MILLION U.S. DOLLARS) TO SET UP A HOSPITAL OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE WITH FLOOR SPACE OF 30,000 SQ M.

LIAONING PROVINCE HAS TRIPLED ITS TRADITIONAL MEDICAL FACILITIES SINCE 1986.

IN ADDITION TO THE LOCAL EFFORTS, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED 4.2 BILLION YUAN (800 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS) TO DEVELOP TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE DURING THE 1986-1990 PERIOD. WITH 646 NEW HOSPITALS AND 66,000 BEDS PUT INTO USE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, CHINA NOW HAS 2,141 HOSPITALS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE, WITH 200,000 BEDS AND 1 MILLION DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS.

IN RECENT YEARS, CHINA HAS MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE THE RESOURCES OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, DEVELOP TREATMENT OF EMERGENCY CASES AND ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND STUDY TRADITIONAL MEDICINE WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

SOURCES AT THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SAID THE LATEST NATIONWIDE SURVEY SHOWED AT LEAST 8,000 KINDS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINAL HERBS, ANIMALS AND MINERALS ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED.

SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF MANY IMPORTANT EXOTIC SPECIES. DETAILED STUDIES OF THE CULTIVATION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEDICINAL HERBS HAVE ALSO BEEN CARRIED OUT.

ABOUT 200 KINDS OF NEW DRUGS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FROM CHINESE MEDICINAL HERBS IN RECENT YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES.

ROUTINE METHODS IN THE TREATMENT OF EMERGENCY CASES, APOPLEXY, HIGH FEVER, SYNCOPE, BLOOD PROBLEMS AND CARDIAC PAIN HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. NEW AND EFFECTIVE THERAPIES HAVE ALSO BEEN DEVELOPED FOR NON-SURGERY TREATMENT OF APPENDICITIS, PERITONITIS, ACUTE PERFORATION OF THE STOMACH AND DUODENUM, AND ECTOPIC PREGNANCY.

IN THE FIELD OF ACUPUNCTURE AND MOXIBUSTION (THE BURNING OF MOXA NEAR SKIN FOR TREATMENT), INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS HAVE BEEN OUTLINED, SEVERAL DOZEN NEW ACUPOINTS HAVE BEEN FOUND AND VARIOUS ACUPUNCTURE TECHNIQUES FOR THE FOOT, FACE, SCALP, NOSE AND ANKLE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED.

IN THE BASIC RESEARCH FIELD, ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT BREAKTHROUGHS IS THE DISCOVERY OF MORPHOLOGICAL BASES OF CHANNELS (SPECIAL CONDUCTING STRUCTURES OF THE HUMAN BODY), A PILLAR OF THE

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THEORY OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE.

SCIENTISTS OF THE INSTITUTE OF BIOPHYSICS OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOUND THAT HYPERSENSITIVITY, THE LOW IMPEDANCE TO BIO-ELECTRICITY AND THE EFFECT OF HIGH PERCUSSION SOUND HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE WHOLE LINES OF THE THREE HAND YIN CHANNELS (THE CHANNELS IN THE PORTION OF THE ARM FACING THE BODY WHICH RUN TO THE INTERNAL ORGANS OF THE BODY). THIS DISCOVERY CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF THE MERIDIAN SYSTEM DISCOVERED 2,500 YEARS AGO BY ANCIENT CHINESE AND UNVEILS THE MYSTERY IN THIS FIELD.

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