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Ancient Materia Medica and Therapeutics

Merck Report

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isms of shell shock. And that same spirit of religion can carry one through the storms of life, so that in the midst of the keenest suffering there is a peace and a happiness that cannot be destroyed by any anguish, however keen.

But in order that this may be, religion must be honest and true. It must play a real part in daily life and be the expression of the life of man in the presence of God.

And so if one will consider the all-important truth that God is the supreme intelligence in which

world of intelligent beings, he will realize the necessity of the conscious relationship in which the human mind must stand habitually in the presence of God. Man must take part in an active relationship to God if he is to attain the fullness of his perfection.

Without this intellectual communion with God, the human personality must fall far short of its ideal perfection. Since the function of mental hygiene is to enable the human personality to attain its full perfection, there can be no adequate mental hygiene from which religion is excluded.



ANCIENT MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS

Among the many clay tablets from Nippur preserved in the University of Pennsylvania Museum collection, there is a remarkable document, inscribed in the cuneiform character of early pre-Sargonic style—about 2600 B.C.—which roused considerable interest at a recent surgical convention held in Philadelphia.

The tablet—16 x 9.5 cm.—long dormant in the Museum, is well preserved on the reverse. The obverse is unfortunately almost illegible, except for a few lines. Photographs, transliteration and translation, as far as possible, will help to realize the early use of drugs, prescriptions, and the

elaborate treatment of a burnt foot.

The drugs include various herbs, plants, seeds, flour, wheat, barley, cassia, balsam, salt, sesame and cedar oils, powdered woods, thorn root and twig, hot beer, water, etc., which, it is prescribed, “to wash, pound, boil on fire, pour, sprinkle, plaster, anoint, clean—peel!—and mix with the water.

For the treatment of a burnt foot, strange things like a water snake, a cow’s teat—perhaps as an artificial skin—are prescribed; also an ingenious dripping machine for washing the dust from the foot.—*Merck Report.*