

REVIEW

HISTORICAL REVIEW FOR DEVELOPMENT
OBS. AND GYN.
THROUGH ANCIENT & MODERN EGYPTIAN
AND ARABIC MEDICINE



A Thesis

submitted for the Partial Fulfillment of the
M.Sc. Degree In Obstetric and Gynaecology



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

" قالوا سبحانك لا علم لنا الا ما علمتنا

انك انت العليم الحكيم "

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة : آية ٢٢



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The Candidate

Mona Mostafa Foad

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INTRODUCTION AND

AIM OF THE WORK

Medicine among other sciences, has always been a mirror reflecting the development and prosperity of nations throughout ages.

Since ancient times man has tried to overcome nature and its unwanted effects on his body. Many works were devoted to searching the history and determining the origin and time of evolution and development of the various medical achievements, to evaluate its effects on today's modern methods.

The aim of this work is to determine and clarify the role of our Egypt and the other Arabian civilizations in the various discoveries in Gy. & Obstetrics.

This will be done by scrutinizing what was written before in both the history of medicine Gyn. and Obstetric, analysing each subject thoroughly. Then we will show the work of Egyptians and Arabs involving

it. Thus we hope to get a document to justify the Arab efforts and work concerning this subject trying to erase some of the falsified believes in our medical history.

INTRODUCTION TO PHARAONIC MEDICINE

Pharaonic civilization is one of the most ancient and great civilizations of all times. Its secrets is still obscure, and a lot have yet to be discovered. The delay in understanding the secrets of the Hieroglyphic language was nearly the only obstacle in confirming the greatness of their work in various branches of science and medicine. They were very interested in medicine. This is evident in their Papyri which were found and translated. These papyri were written during the three millenia that spanned the period between Mena and the Ptolemies. The prestige that surrounded their medical corpse was so immense that it concealed the shadows of residual magic and sacerdotal medicine that tainted their practice.

Their medical civilization radiated all around egypt, so that not only Assyrian princes and Persian Kings resort to specialists of the Nile valley, but that the latter shone in the eyes of the Greeks themselves with legendary glory. And as a result the Greeks

and following nations translated a lot of the Pharaonic medical papyri and took advantage of them. The subject of Gynaecology and Obstetrics was handled in their writings and engravements on their temples. We will try to throw some light on it in an attempt to evaluate their work.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF PHARAONIC DYNASTIES

It is essential to outline the chronological order of the Pharaonic dynasties for the reader to be oriented with the time we are discussing, and the sequence of events occurring during it.

1- Primaeval: (Predynastic Period) Before 3200 B.C.

The country originally was formed of 2 kingdoms, kingdom of Delta and kingdom of upper Egypt with memphis inbetween. The introduction of the Egyptian calender may belong to the predynastic period and begin with July 19th 4241 B.C.

2- Ancient Empire: 3200-2270 B.C.

a- Archaic Period: The earliest kings (3200-2780 B.C.)

1st & 2nd Dynasties residing at this:

Mena United Egypt about 3200 B.C., founded "White Wall", later called memphis. This was the period of development of the Egyptian alphabet. They also invented the papyrus, the brush and the ink. This

lead to the appearance of the literary class in the society, from which physicians sprang.

b- Pyramid Period (2780 - 2270 B.C.)

3rd dynasty (2780 - 2720)

Zoser: removed his capital to Memphis where he built his step pyramid at Saqqara. It was built by Imhotep the first engineer, statesman and physician who in course of time became the hero of medicine.

4th dynasty: (2720-2560 B.C.)

Senefru: Builder of the pyramid of Medium and that in Dahshur.

Kheops: Builder of great pyramid of Giza (2690 B.C.)

Khephren: Builder of second pyramid of Giza (2650 B.C.)

Mencheres: Builder of third pyramid of Giza (2600 B.C.)

Most of our information is obtained from the necropolis of Memphis where tombs are decorated with pictures and texts the so-called pyramid texts.

5th dynasty: (2560 - 2420 B.C.)

Egypt reached the zenith of her civilization. The pyramids of the kings are at Abusir.

Userkof: his pyramid is at Saqqara.

Sahuré: about 2500 B.C. he fought Lybians and Asiatics.

Onnos: his pyramid is at Saqqara.

6th dynasty: (2420-2270 B.C.)

Commerical relations were established between Egypt and Punt, Syria.

3- Intermediate Period: (2270-2100 B.C.) 7.10th dynasties.

Central power weakened, the country opened to Asian invasion. A social revolution broke, order was restored at the end of the xith dynasty. A new period of prosperity began.

4- Middle Empire: (2100-1700 B.C.)

11th dynasty: (2100-2000 B.C.)

Theban princes obtained sovereignty over all Egypt. Most of them were called Mentuhotop.

12th dynasty (2000 - 1790 B.C.)

Egypt's most prosperous period

Amenemhet I: he founded this dynasty. All sciences and arts flourished as never before. A canal was dug out that connected the Nile with the Red Sea.

13th dynasty: (1790-1700 B.C.)

The country experienced another breakdown.

5- **Hyksos Period:** (1700-1555 B.C.)

14th-16th dynasty: (1700-1600 B.C.).

The Hyksos, the shepherd's kings ruled Egypt, their capital being Avaris.

17th dynasty: (1600-1550 B.C.).

Took out the struggle against the Hyksos, threw them east and followed them to Palastine.

Sekenynré: His skull shattered in battle, his mummy in Cairo museum was found at Deir El Bahari.

Kemose: continued the battle.

Ahmose: (1580 - 1555 B.C.) conquered Avaris.

6- **New Empire:** (1555-712 B.C.)

18th dynasty (1555 - 1350 B.C.)

Egypt became a great power.

Thutmosis III:

Hatshepsut: was the first woman to wear double crown.

Egypt became the strongest and wealthiest country in the old world. Art and craft is well demonstrated in the finds of the tomb of Tutankhamon.

Amenhotep IV: attempted to establish a monotheistic religion, and called himself Ikhnaton but was rejected.

19th dynasty:

Seti I and Ramses II:

Battle of Kadesh took place, temples of Karnak, Abu-Simbel, Luxor, Ramesseum, Abydos, Memphis and Bubastis were built.

20th dynasty: (1200 - 1000 B.C.)

Ramses III (1198 - 1167 B.C.)

He conquered Libyans and repelled a barbarian invasion.

21st dynasty (1090 - 945 B.C.).

Empire broke down.

22nd dynasty: (945-745 B.C.)

Kings were of Libyan origin.

23rd dynasty: (745-718 B.C.)

Ethiopian kings ruled Egypt.

24th dynasty: (718-712 B.C.).

7- Late Egyptian period: (712-332 B.C.)

25th dynasty (712-700 B.C.)

A period of struggle to get rid of Ethiopians and Assyrians.

26th dynasty: (663-525 B.C.)

Egypt became prosperous, trade flourished with Greece. Art and science reverted to earlier era.

Psammetichos III:

Egypt became a persian Province.

(Persian Domination) (525-332 B.C.)

Included the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th dynasty.

(Greco-Roman Period) 332 B.C. - 638 A.D.

Alexander the Great (332-323) took possession of Egypt and founded Alexandria which became the centre of Greek culture and commerce in all the world. He died in 323 B.C. and Egypt became satrapy of the Ptolemies.

Their rulers were Ptolemy I, II, III.

Cleopatra and Ptolemy XIV (51-47 B.C.) ruled under guardianship of Roman Senate. Julius Caesar landed at Alexandria. Ptolemy XVI Cleopatra's son by Caesar was appointed and murdered in 44 B.C.

Roman Period (30 B.C. - 395 A.D.)

Byzantine Period (395-638 A.D.)

In 640 A.D. Egypt became a Province of the Empire of the Caliphs. (Kamal 1967).