

SUMMARY

Ophthalmologic therapy during the middle age

During eleven centuries the physicians were inheriting Aegyptian, Greek, Latin, Arabian traditions. The therapy is closely related to more ancient conceptions and essays. Physicians and their compilers were dealing with ophthalmologic remedies in some medieval books.

Firstly an historical survey precises roots and pathways leading to the published data. Then old pathological expressions are defined, i.e. ad oculos lacrimosos, ad sanguinem oculorum, aegilops, albugo, aspritudo, caligines, cataracta, epiphora, leucomia, lippitudo, macula, rubedo, suffusio, ulcera, varuli, vulnera.

298 crude drugs are enumerated from the mineral, animal and plant kingdoms. For the latter part the main difficulty is to identify exactly the utilized species and the parts of them, the geographical origin, then to point out the active chemical constituents, the pharmacological experimentally proved properties, the mythic part opposited to the real activity (sign theory), moreover the ancient medical theoretical knowledge.

The medieval physicians seem to have considered solely the external diseases without care for the optical disorders.

Despite conceptual explanations quite different of ours and the lack of correct experimentation, the results of the ancient works are some what effective since some of the old drugs are still employed in the modern therapy. Empiricism had valuably contributed to a first step screening of many crude drugs.

Le khol, médicament et fard oculaire, de l'antiquité à nos jours

par Michel FAURE

Exposé en trois parties : que recouvre le mot khol dans l'histoire ? ; quels sont les renseignements fournis par les analyses effectuées hier et aujourd'hui ? ; que dire du khol à l'heure actuelle ?

SUMMARY

Kohl, medication and eye cosmetic, from Antiquity to the present time.

Discussion in three parts : from what historical basis do we retrieve the word kohl ?, what information is provided by both early and present day analysis ?, what is the current thinking concerning kohl ?