

Telepathy and Telepathin*

Wonders of the Venezuelan and Colombian Forests.—The Yagé—The Yokóo

—Extinction of Malaria

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WE have promised to furnish a succinct description of the extraordinary properties of the plants which abound in and are well known to the Indians of the Caquetá (Colombia) region, and regarding which the chemist and botanist, Dr. Z. Bayón, has presented a very important report on the termination of the scientific mission in that territory entrusted to him by the Colombian Government. The reed called "yagé" by the Indians and whose active principle has already been christened "Telepatina" by Dr. Z. Bayón, possesses the property of producing in persons the psychological phenomenon now known throughout the scientific and lay world under the name of telepathy.

What is telepathy? Let us hear the opinion of the learned: Telepathy is manifested through apparitions and impressions. Apparitions may be either objective, external, substantial, or subjective; in this case the force manifested seems to act at a distance upon the person who sees, and this influence upon his brain determines the internal vision, which seems to be external as in dreams, but may as well be only subjective or internal. Thus as a thought, a remembrance may evoke in our mind an image that may be very evident and alive, so a being that acts upon another may cause an image to rise in the latter to impress upon him for an instant the notion of reality. These facts are obtained today, experimentally, in the studies of hypnotism and suggestion, which studies are as yet in their infancy, but are, however, already furnishing results deserving of the utmost attention, both from the psychological and physiological viewpoints.

The phenomenon is not produced because the retina is struck by an effective reality, but because the optical cells and layers of the brain are excited by a psychic force. This psychic force began to manifest itself thirty or forty centuries ago on the upper spheres of mankind; its action begins now, it is at its dawn. The impression is exerted directly upon the mental being. How? We do not know, but the combined efforts of many men are bringing us nearer the solution of the mightiest problem that can interest the human spirit.

Telepathic phenomena no longer surprise the common people, despite their inability to explain them; hence it is that from numerous instances we select the case of Colonel Custodio Morales, to whom Dr. Z. Bayón administered eleven drops of "yagé" at the Caicedo Military Station, on the Hacha River. On the following morning Colonel Morales, the chief commander of the station, presented himself to the doctor, full of alarm with the news of the death of his father, who resided at Ibagué, and of the sickness of his young sister. The colonel "had seen" all this during the night. One month afterward the mail arrived with letters announcing the death of the colonel's father and the serious condition of the young sister. The Indians, Dr. Bayón's report goes on, see occult things, describe, after their manner, cities, towers, houses, white people in thousands, notwithstanding their savage state and without ever having emerged from their forests, and therefore being ignorant of our surroundings.

Although the whole world shares the well grounded conviction that our bark, coca and other wonders of the forests, still conceal unknown marvels, it was not even

suspected that in the heart of these deserts there would be a plant whose active principle, telepathin, possesses the virtue of producing the above mentioned psychic phenomenon.

The Yagé is not to be confounded with the "Teleño" (Stonecrop), a plant that grows at the Cape of Good Hope, or with the "Telesperma," a herbaceous compound plant of Brazil. It might be thoughtlessly mistaken for *Cannabis Indica* (*Cannabis sativa*, L.), but its effects are entirely different, as is well known. *Cannabis*, a poisonous narcotic, produces in full doses intoxication, delirium and hallucinations, but does not produce the phenomenon that we have agreed to call "telepathy."

YOCÓO.

Another of the plants that attracted the scientific Commission's attention is the "Yocóo," so called by the Indians. The report states that no Indian is ever lacking a piece of the stump of this shrub in his cabin, in his canoe or on his long travels.

It is found abundantly in the forests and carefully cultivated by the natives. They take the bark, separated from its epidermis, and rubbed up and mixed with very little water, in order to acquire strength, vigor and agility "to avoid the pangs of hunger." "It contains principles that are much stronger than those of coca with lime, which the hinterland Indians use so extensively. Dr. Z. Bayón took it with great results."

Still there is a fact which to us constitutes the culminating and transcendent point in this matter, and this is the brawn, vigor, energy, health and longevity of the different tribes that use Yocóo daily, to whom are unknown most of the diseases that afflict us. Not a single case of anæmia or malaria did Dr. Zarda Bayón find among those tribesmen, while these endemic ills are the causes of mortality of the whites that go to those regions and of a high percentage in the hot regions of Venezuela and Colombia.

The verified similarity and analogy among the various known plants that form the Flora in the southwestern regions of Venezuela and Colombia; the great extensions of the washout lands, where by the estuaries of such rivers as the Portuguesa and Guanare, the Caquetá and Hacha, the forests thicken with creeping reeds, resins and medicinal plants, induce us to believe that fuller knowledge of these wonderful plants is not far from us and very soon, perhaps, provided with their exact botanical descriptions, either ourselves or others more fortunate and with a larger array of knowledge, may be able to make them worthy of a minute study, which they certainly deserve, because of their numberless applications to science and industry and their transcendent position in the national life.

Cleansing the Skin for Vaccination

The U. S. Public Health Service has issued a warning against the use of denatured ethyl alcohol containing phenol for the purpose of cleansing the skin at the site of vaccination against smallpox. It is believed that such procedure materially decreases the likelihood of securing successful "takes" from small pox vaccine, and it is suggested that cleansing the skin with soap and water is preferable, and that if another agent is desired ether might be used.

*From the Lima, Peru, *Boletín Farmacéutico*.