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**PECULIARITIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINE**

**IN MESOPOTAMIA**

The development of medicine in the Ancient world had a long history. It was the time of rising of some civilizations, such as Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Indian, and Chinese. Mesopotamian civilization is the sphere of our interest.

The most famous civilizations in this region were Summerian (3rd millennum B.C.), Babylonian (2nd millennium B.C. – 539 B.C.), and Assyrian one (2nd millennium B.C. – 7th century B.C.).

The earliest legal source of that period was the Code of Hammurabi. This document gives us the chance to understand which particular attention was paid to the medicine. 11 articles of this Code were devoted to the legal aspects of healers’ activity. In the case of successful treatment physician got high award (honorarium of surgeon for the simplest operation was about 42,5 grams of silver). For such amount of money one could buy 5 pigs. High payment for treatment was connected with the severity of Code of Hammurabi. At that time there was a custom of *lex talionis* (“an eye for eye, a tooth for a tooth”). In the case of fatal result physician was punished.

There were two main approaches to the treatment of patients: *asutu* (the art of healers) and *ashiputu* (the art of conjurers) which nearly all the time had been fighting. *Asutu,* physicians-empiricists learnt by heart the receipts, but did not examine the patient. *Ashiputu* mostly usedmagic rhymes. Their treatment little bit similar to the modern psychotherapy. The significant role in their rites had magic circles and magic numbers (3 and 7).

Mesopotamian physicians used herbal, animal, and mineral ingredients for the preparing of medications. Among herbal ones the most popular was thyme, mustard, plum tree, pear, willow, fir, and pine. Components of animal origin were also used, such as: wool, milk, tortoise shell, water shakes. Mineral ingredients could be used, especially salt, water and oil.

There were different methods of treatment: bandages, rubbing, compresses, washing, massage, therapeutic gymnastics, and aid for primapara during the delivery (it was females’ field of activity), there were not any dental operations there Mesopotamian doctors used just painkilling pastes and treating mastics.

It is known that in Mesopotamia there were pharmacies, and hospitals (formed on the basis of churches). In Assyria water channels and sanitary facilities started to build in the capital city (Neneveh). Unfortunately natural and artificial ponds were so dirty that using of water from them was forbidden and the majority of population drank beer and different kind of other drinks (after boiling). There were severe hygienic instructions for priests to wash the body systematically and wear white linen clothes.

Pantheon of Mesopotamian gods was large. It included supreme divine creatures, such as Sky Father Anu, God of the wind, air, earth and storms Enlil, and God of water, mischief, crafts, creation, and wisdom Enki, who was adored as a protector of treatment art (Ea in Akkadian and Babylonian mythology). In the period of Hammurabi reign to the supreme gods was joined Marduk. People believed that he had a lot of positive qualities: from the strong power and brave in battles up to healing of sick people.

In conclusion, it is necessary to underline that there were some features common for the development of medicine in the Ancient East, such as: the first texts of medical content, at that period started to form 2 trends in the treatment practice (empirical and cult ones). In Ancient Mesopotamia started to develop the imagination about the origin of diseases, connected with natural, moral-ethical, and religious-mystic causes. Training of physicians was realized not only in definite families, but also in general schools on the basis of churches. Medical ethic originated from that time. Building of sanitary facilities in big cities.