

and prognosis of treatment' and 'Preventative healthcare: dietary and lifestyle advice'. This material should not be omitted from any clinical textbook. I appreciated Sabine's direct approach: 'It is our duty to educate patients regarding their food consumption and lifestyle habits, and the relationship of these to their individual disease. This is an essential approach because simply prescribing Chinese drugs or giving acupuncture often does not suffice. Without considering and changing these external factors, Chinese medicine treatment is often not enough to treat stubborn and complicated skin diseases. Psoriasis illustrates this very clearly.'

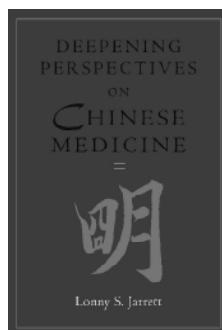
Chapter 9 covers clinical cases, each laid out clearly with photographs. Here we find additional clinical information that is useful when working with psoriasis, for example how lesions might look when they are healing. Such information (including the photographs) can be shared with patients.

Sabine concludes the book with two very useful appendices. Appendix I lays out in detail how to prepare and prescribe external herbal medicines. Appendix II is a colour tongue atlas that illustrates the clinical patterns discussed in Chapter 5.

In my 20 years of TCM experience I have come to understand how important it is to explain to our patients our clinical thinking: our diagnosis, why we think their condition started, and how they might achieve improved health through lifestyle changes. We need to discuss treatment and its duration, and alert the patient to the possible ups and downs within the course of treatment. When patients are properly informed in this way they become very loyal, and treatment becomes a co-operative journey undertaken by both patient and practitioner. This book covers all of these aspects and is thus extremely

useful in clinical practice. In its clarity and directness it is an inspiration and it constitutes solid guidance for TCM practitioners to apply Chinese herbal medicine responsibly and effectively in the treatment of psoriasis.

Inga Heese



Deepening Perspectives on Chinese Medicine

by Lonny Jarrett

Spirit Path Press, hardback, \$111.00

At first glance, Lonny Jarrett's new book is an enormous volume of around 850 pages. Yet, after reading it, the contents actually seemed brief and immensely profound. It starts with Lonny's personal journey and his experiences in meditation, setting a distinct atmosphere and energy that permeates the rest of the pages of his work. He then moves on to elucidate the interaction of the five elements, from the perspective of external observation, from within, and from other medical traditions, philosophies and the study of psychology. He moves on to perform a complete dissection and elucidation of each element as a constitutional type, including identity, sexuality, choices, life cycle, and the various forces that act on each constitutional type; he then resynthesises these parts into a clinical whole. He provides a number of important case studies to demonstrate how these ideas can be practically applied in the clinic. I found

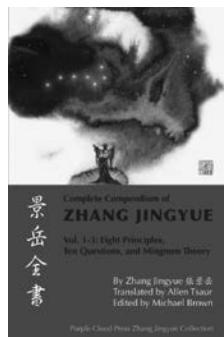
those to be very well selected and insightful, and I believe that they will be majorly influential for those readers who decide to follow this approach towards medicine. The final parts of the book are the author's integration of various systems (including Daoism, Buddhism, Judaism, Kabbalah, Freud, Jung, TCM, and the five element, Ayurvedic and Greco-Roman approaches to medicine).

By strict definition, *Deepening Perspectives on Chinese Medicine* is not exactly a Chinese medicine book. In my opinion it is very hard to even try to categorise where this text belongs. For me it is a personal and highly philosophical journey into the roots of medicine. Mind you, this is not a Chinese medicine or five element journey, but a journey to understand why you feel sick, to seek the deepest root of your imbalance, understand what went wrong, put this knowledge into perspective and rediscover the path back to health. It is also a book of many levels and divisions as well as unity. It integrates myth, legend, theory, philosophy, religion, spirituality and enlightenment by masterfully exploring the depths of Chinese cosmology, astrology, myth, history, philosophy, terminology, Daoism, Buddhism and Hinduism, Ayurveda, modern theology, hermetic and kabbalistic teachings, art and symbolism. He breaks down archaic concepts and then resynthesises them in a perspective that borrows much from the theories of Freud, Jung, Aurobindo, Gebser, Wilber and others. Although different to his previous books, the author never loses focus of the primary objective: to offer a clear view of the very core of health and disease.

I have to admit that this was not an easy book to read, mostly because by design it is so packed with ideas, all interwoven with clinical practice in a most wonderful way that truly contributes to our understanding of

medicine. I will need to revisit this book again, to allow the ideas time to sink in. I found myself stopping every few pages and reflecting back on what Jarrett was describing. Sometimes I had to flip back and forth to look again at a quotation or the clarification of a term. This book will inspire many who wish to move away from the standardised forms of medicine that many of us tend to adhere to, and seek to explore a much greater and far more inclusive approach to our traditional medicine than has even been put down on paper.

Ioannis Solos



Complete Compendium of Zhang Jingyue, Vol. 1-3: Eight Principles, Ten Questions, and Mingmen Theory

Translated by Allen Tsaur, edited by Michael Brown
Purple Cloud Press, softback, £48.00

All ten thousand things cannot be detached from the principle; and for a physician, the principle is absolutely crucial.

So begins the first part of this new translation of Zhang Jingyue's voluminous seventeenth century text. As can be deduced from this opening, Zhang's primary concern in this first part is the very roots of our medicine, which for him depend

on the physician's grounding in 'principle' (*li*). An introductory section provided by the author elucidates the neo-Confucian understanding of this concept in terms of a physician's innate understanding of 'all that is' (including health and disease), and which comes about due to refinement of their mind. Having clearly stated this core principle, in subsequent chapters Zhang expands his focus outwards to elucidate yin and yang, interior and exterior, vacuity and repletion, hot and cold and so on, but always emphasises that the technical details should stay within the context of the core principle:

By penetrating the principle within one's chest, [all] transmutations and transformations can be calculated by one's fingers. (Chapter 32).

The book begins with numerous preliminary sections: a publisher's vision, testimonies, a poetic epigraph, a foreword, a translator's preface, an editor's preface, an introduction, translation methodology, even a 'who's who' of prominent figures mentioned in the text, are all presented prior to the original text itself. The inclusion of the publisher's vision speaks of the passion and integrity of this young publishing house 'to make accessible the profundity of treasures previously hidden from the English-speaking world'. The poetic epigraph by Leo Lok, together with the long list of 'thankyous', situate this publication in a wide and talented community of scholar practitioners devoted to disseminating authentic East Asian medical teachings.

This handsome volume, along with other recent texts by Purple Cloud Press, seem to mark something of a watershed in English language East Asian medical texts. Scholarly translations have hitherto tended to be the domain

of sinologists based in academic settings. This material comes from a grass-roots publisher run by scholar-physicians and is intended for other practitioners. This makes the translation, but also the commentary and supplementary materials, much more clinically relevant. For example, the translator points out the tendency for modern practitioners to polarise either around Zhu Danxi's focus on yin deficiency and empty heat or the *jingfang* focus on *qi* and yang vacuity; Zhang Jingyue is presented as a physician who transcends such limiting distinctions and it is suggested that study of his work might help others to reconcile such polarities; this transcendence is evidenced by Zhang not only formulating the prescription *Zhi Bai Di Huang Wan* (Anamarrhena Phellodendron and Rehmannia Pill) but also repopularising the use of *Fu Zi* (Aconiti Radix lateralis), *Rou Gui* (Cinnamomi Cortex) and *Ren Shen* (Ginseng Radix).

The integrity of the translation and commentary provides the reader with a rich understanding of East Asian medicine. In particular, there is much to be learned where the authors diverge from conventional renderings of terms. For example, take the following passage from chapter 2:

For the diagnosis and treatment of any disease, one must first assess the yin and yang, which are the headropes and outlines for the art of medicine.

In this quote the authors choose to render *綱 gang* (as in 八綱 *ba gang*) as 'headropes' rather than the conventional 'principles', and thus retain the rich associated imagery of the main rope that defines the structure of a fishing net which - when pulled - closes the net to capture everything