

Knowledge Transformation in Surgery and Traumatology in Modern Chinese Medicine: An Analysis Based on Medical Books and Periodicals (1912-1949)

Pi, Kou-Li

Center for General Education
Chung Yuan Christian University

Abstract

In an atmosphere of dispute between Chinese and Western medicine, modern Chinese medicine has been challenged by the transformation of knowledge in various fields. In past studies on the history of modern Chinese medicine, particular emphasis was placed on studying the history of internal medicine. However, especially since the late Qing Dynasty, the mindset that “Western medicine is better at surgery while traditional Chinese medicine is better at internal treatment” has become deeply rooted in people's minds, which shows that the development of traditional Chinese medicine in the fields of surgery and traumatology has encountered its dilemma at this time. If we consider the urgent medical need for new knowledge about trauma and first aid in war-torn China during modern history, we can deduce the challenges faced by Chinese medicine and the urgent demand for solutions to the overall traumatic diseases in this era. This paper first makes a literature review on the general list of ancient books of traditional Chinese medicine, from which it sorts out the “Statistical Table of Medical Books on Traumatology Published in the Republic of China,” and, on this basis, it analyzes the publication and knowledge of modern medical books on traumatology in traditional Chinese medicine. In addition, with supplementation by periodicals at the time, this paper is able to draw out remarks on traumatology at that time, through which it analyzed surgeons' views on their own situation and status. Their views are then with the literature on traditional Chinese medicine to gain an overall manifestation of the transformational level of traumatology knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine in this era. Finally, this paper hopes to answer a major academic concern: What impact did the publication and knowledge of this kind of medical book have on modern Chinese medicine? Besides these transformations, did the existing trend of “tendency toward internal medicine” cause any limitations? Based on the analysis of the historical development context, this paper also focuses on the connotations of literature, medicine, and theory convergence in modern

Chinese medicine to sort out the academic developments in the science of Chinese medicine and enrich the overall exposition of the history of modern Chinese medical knowledge.

Keywords: Chinese medicine, traumatology, surgery, medical literature, modern China