

附錄十一. 佳冬杏林世家醫師學醫行醫故事之例四 - "訴訟", 林梅蘭作

訴訟

在六十年前台灣光復後,我大伯父林增香(P11*)在台北新店開業行醫,叫回春醫院.有一天一位農夫模樣的人,帶來一個八,九歲的男孩來求醫.那孩子臉色蒼白,骨瘦如柴,双目無神.農夫說,"我的孩子有肚子痛,沒食慾,倦怠,頭痛等毛病,請醫生看看他有什麼病.我伯父就依初診手續,聽聽胸腔,按脈搏,瞧瞧眼睛及按按鼓脹的肚子,就斷定是罹患了蛔虫症.他開了驅虫劑給他,告訴他服過後幾天就會好,並告訴小孩飯前要洗手,指甲剪短,保持日常生活的清潔,就可預防再發病了.

回去後農夫給孩子服了藥,不料不久小孩竟在地上翻滾,大喊肚子疼,不到幾小時,小孩就死了!於是農夫向法院告狀,說醫生毒死他兒子,要醫生賠償.法院為求得真相,就請法醫解剖小孩屍體,當法醫剖開小孩肚皮時,在場的人都驚呆了.小孩肚裡爬滿蛔虫(大小形狀如蚯蚓,但白淡黃色),還有糾纏成團的,那大大小小的蛔虫因驅虫藥下肚而统统從腸內穿出腸外,肚內除了蛔虫看不到其他器官.因比真相大白,法院判決醫生無罪,沒誤斷病情,更沒下錯藥.法官對農夫說:'小孩滿腸滿肚的蛔虫,服藥死了,不服藥也會死,是你為父的疏忽,怎麼拖延這麼久才帶孩子去看醫生?有罪的是你,不是醫生.'"農夫低頭啞口無言.這場告狀案就結束了.我伯父也在困窘中解脫了,鬆了口氣.

蛔虫是廣佈世界的寄生虫,喜溫暖多濕之處,尤其以人糞為肥料的農村地區為多,感染的機會極高.記得我那時在鄉下國小教書時,鄉衛生所每年都定期派人到學校讓學童服驅虫劑,次日學校廁所(那時的廁所,可以看到坑內的排泄物)坑內滿滿的蛔虫鑽動,叫人看了毛骨悚然.那是六十年前困苦的年代,目前由於人民生活改善,衛生習慣及設備都進步了.這種可怕的情景,不會再重演了.

*P11 是 "佳冬杏林世家實錄改訂附2015 八月" 的編號碼.

Appendix 11. Example 4 of Medical Education & Practice Stories by Jd's Medical Family Member - "The Law Suit" by Lin, Mei-lan

The Law Suit

After Taiwan's return to China 60 years ago, my eldest uncle Lin Zn-xian (P11*) practiced medicine in Xin-tien, Taipei, called Fei-chun Clinic. One day a farmer-like man brought in an 8 - 9-year old boy for medical help. The kid's face was pale, body thinned like a firewood, and eyes showed no spirit. The farmer said, "My son is sick with bowl ache, no appetite, feeling tired, and headache. Could doctor examine if he has any disease. " My uncle followed the first visit procedure to listen to the thoracic cavity, to feel the pulse, to examine eyes and to touch drum-like swollen belly; and immediately diagnosed ascariasis. He gave him anthelmintic drug prescription and told him it would be cured in a few days after taking the drug. He also told the child to wash hands before meals, to trim nails, to keep daily living clean and these would prevent reappearance of the disease.

The farmer gave his child the drug after return to home. But, before long, the child was rolling about the ground, yelling loudly belly ache and died in less than a few hours ! The farmer then went to court to sue saying the doctor poisoned his son to death and requesting compensation from the doctor. To have fact the court asked for autopsy of the child's corpse. When the coroner opened the child's belly skin, all persons there were surprised. The child's abdomen was full of roundworm (Ascaris, like earthworm in size and shape, but light yellow / white color) crawling, some even tangled into boluses. All these large and small roundworms perforated the intestinal wall from inside to outside because of the anthelmintic taken. Nothing but roundworms was seen inside the abdomen. Therefore, the fact was clear. The judge declared the doctor innocent, without mistakes in diagnosis and furthermore in prescribing drug. The judge said to the farmer, " The child's abdomen is full of roundworms. He would die regardless taking drug or not. It is your as father's negligence. Why it takes so long for you to take the child to see a doctor ? You are guilty, not the doctor. " The farmer had head down and silence. The case was closed. My uncle was thus averted from difficult and distressed condition and relieved

Ascaris is a widely distributed parasite. It likes warm and humid places, especially abundant in rural areas using human feces as fertilizer, with extremely high infection rate. I remember that the time when I taught at a village elementary school, the township health office always sent somebody to school to give students anthelmintic. Next day the school latrine (the excrets there then could be seen) was full of roundworms moving around, very frightening to see. That was poor and difficult time 60 years ago. With people living better and sanitary custom and equipment improved now, this horrible scene would not reappear.

Translated by Tsue Ming Lin.

* P11 is the ID no. in the Records of Jiadong's Medical Family Revision August 2015.

References used by the translator: "Clinical Parasitology, 9th ed, 1984, 825 pages" by Beaver, Jung & Cupp. (Beaver is adviser of translator's master degree study and thesis). "Obserations of the distribution of human parasite ova in nature. I. Human parasite ova isolated from the soil of dooryard vegetable gardens" by Huang & Lin, and "VI. Human parasite ova isolated from the soil of playgrounds and the dust on the floors of classroom of a primary school at a rural area" by Huang, Lin and Hsu. Both abstracts in Chinese in JFMA Dec 28,1962, translator is co-author Lin