

Review

An introduction to the recently excavated Chunggang Medical Records and research on their medical value

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SUMMARY

This study is a report on recently discovered medical records based on traditional medicine in the 1900s. First, the contents of the records and their significance are described in detail. Next, a simple example of the research follows, in order to explain the medical and historical significance the records contain and to answer the question of how this historical document can contribute to future medical and historical studies. The documents dealt with in this study, the Chunggang Medical Records, are medical records compiled by a Korean doctor of oriental medicine by the name of Younghun Kim who practiced in the center of Seoul for a period of over 60 years. The records, which eventually amounted to over 1,500 books, were made known to the academic world when the descendants recently donated them to Kyunghee University. The reason these medical records attract so much attention from academic circles, even though they are the work of one individual, is that they contain abundant information on general public medical health at the time, in addition to the fact that Kim Younghun was a well known figure among Oriental Medicine doctors in Korea. The medical records start in 1915 and continue until Kim Younghun's death in 1974, though they have some damaged or missing parts. Kim's medical records are a gold mine not only for scholars studying the medical history of the early 1900s, but also for doctors trying to emulate the techniques embedded in a great predecessor's medical practice.

Key words: Chunggang Medical Records; Oriental Medicine; Kim Younghun

PREFACE

Chunggang Medical Record was written by the Korean oriental medicine doctor Younghun Kim

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[pen name: Chunggang, 1882 - 1974] over 60 years, who practiced in the center of Seoul from 1915 to 1974. These records amounting to over a 1,000 volumes are now being studied as Younghun Kim's eldest son Kisu Kim contributed them. These manuscripts are the basis for research performed to develop efficient database models as a prerequisite for making a records database.

CHUNGGANG MEDICAL RECORDS AND CHUNGGANG YOUNGHUN KIM

Younghun Kim is a historical figure with an important position in the history of modern Korean oriental medicine. Younghun Kim was born in May 1882 and studied medicine. He was elected a professor at the Dongje Medical School, a professional educational organization for traditional Korean medicine established by the Imperial House in 1904. However, when this school was closed with the abdication of Emperor Kojong in 1907, Kim together with doctors in charge of the Imperial House and senior practitioners of oriental medicine established an organization to promote oriental medicine. They set up a nationwide organization for oriental medicine in 1915 and published specialized magazines on the subject as well. Kim took the initiative to promote oriental medicine during the Japanese Imperialistic period by organizing the East-West Medicine Research Center, an academic organization, in 1924, and opening an education center for traditional Korean medicine in the Gyeonggi-do area in 1937 to encourage younger practitioners. He was appointed as an honorary doctor to the Imperial House, Honorary Chairman for the Association of Korean Oriental Medicine, and Honorary Dean of Seoul Oriental Medical College, which later became the Oriental Medical College of Kyunghee University. He was awarded the Order of Civil Merit at the Ceremony of the Foundation of the Republic of Korea in 1963. He died in June 1974 at the age of 93 and left several books, including "Susehyunseo" and "Chungganguigam". "Chungganguigam" is a posthumous work which his disciple Jonghyung Lee renamed the Chunggang Medical Records (Jeong, 1988; Kim 1990; Cha, 2004).

Younghun Kim opened the Bocheon Oriental Medical Clinic and started his medical practice at Nagwon-dong in the spring of 1909. He preserved his medical records every day from the beginning, and continued until the spring of the year he died.

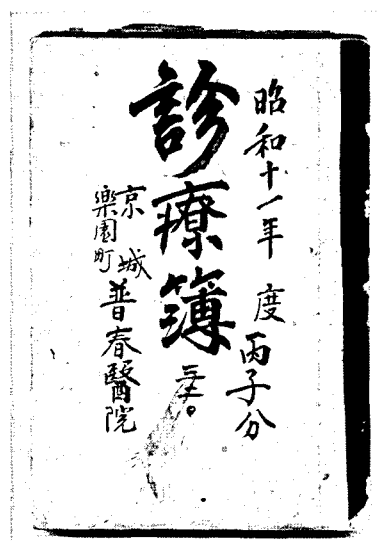


Fig. 1. Cover of the Chunggang Medical Records.

名		病	
尹相殷		口疳	
姓	所住	病發	日
尹	釜山	三月三日	
年	業	發	
三九			

Fig. 2. Contents of the Chunggang Medical Records.

Of the medical records currently kept in Kyunghee University, the first records were dated March 1, 1913 and the last records on January 15, 1974. Each medical record includes the name of the disease,

the outbreak date, cause of disease, examination date, address, name, occupation, age, space to write prescriptions (a list of herbs that make up the prescription along with dosage instructions), and other space to write down about the patient's condition. In honor of his pen name, we call them the Chunggang Medical Records (Figs. 1 and 2).

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHUNGGANG MEDICAL RECORDS

Although the medical records this study discusses are records of individuals, it can be said that they carry more significance than mere personal records in several respects, as follows.

The place where Younghun Kim practiced medicine, the Bochun Oriental Medical Clinic, was located at the very center of Seoul

As his head disciple Jonghyung Lee described it, "(the clinic) was located at a large crossroads, the building was two story architecture of 150 m² in red roofing tiles, super-modern at that time. Its internal structure was divided into a waiting area, an examination room, a dispensary, etc., and five employees were employed there... it was a super modern clinic that would rarely be seen in a western clinic." Therefore there was a continuous stream of patients visiting from all over the nation because of its reputation, although most were from neighboring areas, including Gyeongwun-dong, Ikseon-dong, Insa-dong, Gwancheol-dong, Dongui-dong, etc.

Younghun Kim was elected professor in charge at the age of 23 at the Dongje Medical School in 1904 Although the Dongje Medical School closed when the Emperor Kojong abdicated in 1907, Kim made great efforts to establish oriental medicine, with the assistance of senior practitioners of oriental medicine who had been doctors for the Imperial House. In addition, he came to have a close relationship with

contemporary ministers and with the royal family. He was able to develop intimate relations with influential people, who used to live together at the center of Seoul, and subsequently, he became their attending doctor. Afterwards, when Younghun Kim opened the Bochun Oriental Medical Clinic in 1909 we can easily assume that he had their support in the background, since he opened such a hospital at the center of Seoul despite his young age. In addition, he used many effective prescriptions, which were rarely seen in the world of oriental medicine existing at that time. It can be assumed that such prescriptions were inherited from someone, and it is highly likely that they originated from senior oriental medical doctors from the Imperial House. In addition, it is possible to infer that contemporary high level government officials invited the young oriental medical doctor Younghun Kim to become their family doctor because he inherited know-how from senior oriental medical doctors of the Imperial House. It is clear that his treatment technology was unusual. Hence, Younghun Kim's medical records can be said to have significance far beyond any records of individuals.

The contents of his medical records are organized in a certain form; they all include the name of the disease, the cause of disease, prescriptions, etc

They were very advanced compared to other medical history records of those days, as they kept important information in detail.

Younghun Kim's Medical Records were kept from 1913 to 1974, for about 60 years, and contain a number of medical records for every year except the period during the Korean War (1950-1953)

It is a huge amount of medical records, reaching several hundred thousands of patients in total. Such a vast amount of medical records had never been known to exist in East Asia in the early 1900s. Therefore, they contain more meaning than just medical records of individuals.

Table 1. Medical records arranged per year

Y\M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1913												
1914												
1915												
1916												
1917												
1918												
1919												
1920												
1921												
1922												
1923												
1924												
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1955												
1956												

Table 1. Continued

Y\M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1957												
1958												
1959												
1960												
1961												
1962												
1963												
1964												
1965												
1966												
1967												
1968												
1969												
1970												
1971												
1972												
1973												
1974												

Though Younghun Kim’s medical records are invaluable in studying the modern history of oriental medicine, they have other pragmatic value to current Korean oriental medicine as well

The core of his medical records was published in a separate book called “Chungganguigam”, which is sold out up to the fifth edition and is utilized as a important clinical guideline in modern Korean oriental medicine.

Table 1 shows the months of the existing medical records. The first existing record dates from March, 1913. Some records have been lost from lack of preservation. In addition, there is no record during the Korean War, when Kim could not practice medicine, but he continued to practice successfully until 1968. Even afterwards, he added medical records from time to time. His last examination and treatment was on the 12th and 15th of January 1974, and he died in July the same year, at the age of 93.

THE FORM AND CONTENTS OF THE MEDICAL RECORDS

An illustrative description of the components of his medical record

The Chunggang medical chart used a form similar to current medical charts, and included the name of the disease, the outbreak date, cause of disease, examination date, address, name, occupation, age, space to write prescriptions (a list of herbs that make up the prescription along with dosage instructions) and space to write down about the patient's condition (Fig. 3).

Description of the medical record components

Explanation of medical record: Hyunggu Jin [陳亨求], a merchant, who lived in Palmi-ri, Chuncheon-gun, Kwangwon-do [the present Palmi-ri, Sindongmyeon, Chuncheon-si, Kwangwon-do] and ran his own business [商], visited Seoul on a business trip and could not adapt himself to the water and food in the hot summer [不服水土], had a symptom of diarrhea, and consulted with the Bocheon Oriental

Medical Clinic. Consequently, Younghun Kim prescribed 2 packs of Geo-seo-hwa-joong-tang containing attractylodis rhizoma and others. Geo-seo-hwa-joong-tang is one of the prescriptions Younghun Kim used for various symptoms including diarrhea in hot weather, abdominal pain, vomiting, dyspepsia, etc.

THE METHOD OF EXTRACTING MODEL DATA CLUSTER

The scope and research method of the model data cluster

This study singled out the records from 16 August 1915 to 14 January 1916 from among Younghun Kim's medical records as the model data cluster. Younghun Kim compiled a package of medical records for a period to which he gave a sequential number. The package of his medical records from 16 August to 10 September in 1915 was labeled 'Volume 17'. Data before 'Volume 17' are currently under the process of restoration as they are not well-preserved. Subsequently, the earliest among

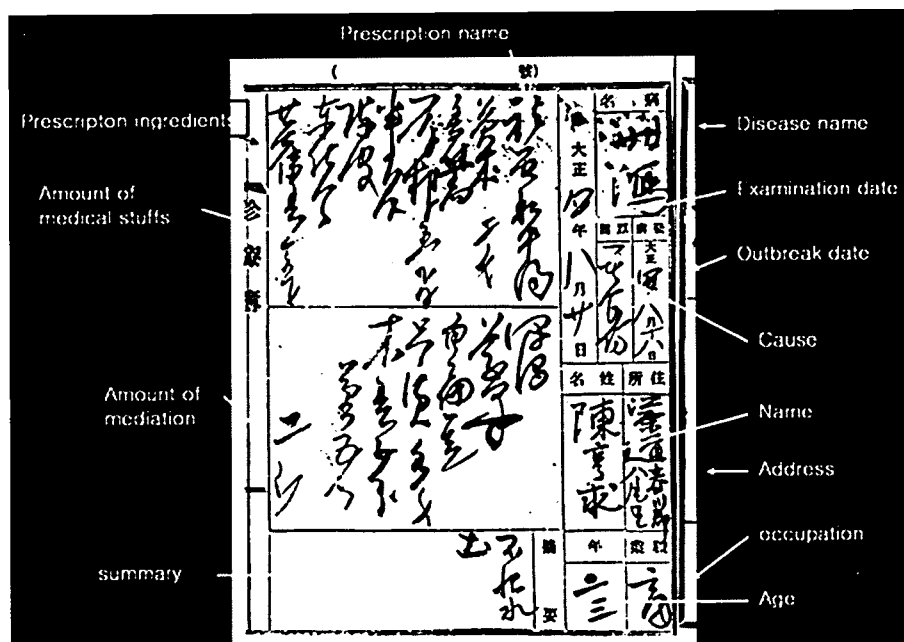


Fig. 3. Description of medical record contents.

Table 2. Example of the arrangement for medical record contents

Name	Hyunggu Jin		Age	23
Address	Kangwon-do Chuncheon-gun Palmi-ri		Occupation	Merchant
Disease Name	Diarrhea		Cause	Summer heat and food remaining undigested
Examination Date	20 August 1915		Outbreak Date	18 August 1915
Summary	Not able to adapt to food and water in other places			
Contents of medication	Prescription Name	Geo-seo-hwa-joong-tang		
	Contents of prescription	Atractylodis Rhizoma 8 g, Elsholtziae Heraba 6 g, Magnoliae Cortex 6 g, Pinelliae Rhizoma 4 g, Red Poria 4 g, Pogostemonis Herba 4 g, Alismatis Rhizoma 4 g, Tsaoko Fructus 4 g, Dolichoris semen 4 g, Aurantii Immaturus Fructus 4 g, Aucklandiae Radix 2 g, 5 pieces of Zingiberis Rhizoma Recens/a pack		
	Amount of medication	2 packs		

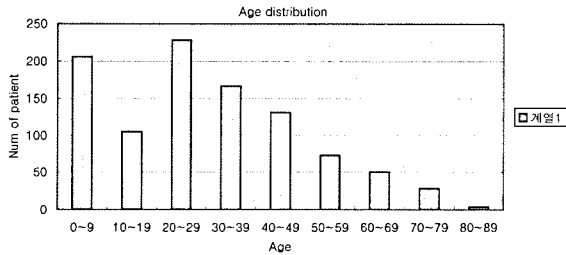


Fig. 4. Age distribution for patients in the model data.

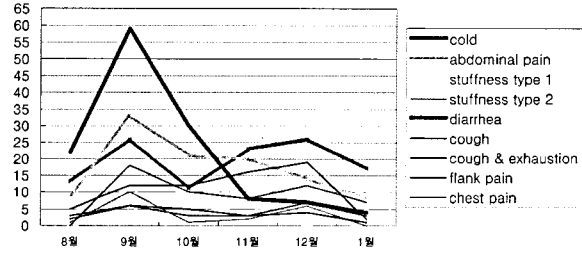


Fig. 5. Frequency analysis of major disease for patients in the model data.

the consecutive data are the records from 16 August 1915. The medical records from Volume 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 are successive without a missing date and the last medical record of Volume 22 is dated 14 January 1916. The number of patients during the period was 998 in total and the statistics for the major indicators of these data are as follows.

Basic statistical data of the model data cluster

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 are the basic statistics extracted from the model data.

EXAMPLES OF ANALYSIS METHOD FOR THE MODEL DATA

The significance of a family medical history data analysis

Example 6 is an arrangement of the records of

visits to Bochun Oriental Medicine Clinic by Keuntaek Lee’s family living in Jongro-gu in 1915. Keuntaek Lee was a high level of government official who was born in 1865 and died in 1919. His elder brother Keunho Lee was born in 1860, and used to hold an important position in the military. Keunsang Lee, born in 1874, was also an important government official. As Younghun Kim’s oriental medicine clinic was situated at the center of the most prosperous area in Seoul at that time, there were many influential figures like the Keuntaek Lee brothers among the patients examined there. Although this data is just one example, Younghun Kim’s clinic continued to practice at the original place for over 30 years before the Korean War, and there were many groups of patients visiting from neighboring places and consulting periodically in a family unit, which proved the best way to analyze

Table 3. Medical records for Keuntaek Lee family

Patient	Examination Y/M/D	Disease Name
Keuntaek Lee's mother (age 77)	1915/08/26	Fatigue
Keunsang Lee (age 40)	1915/09/02	bloating in GI track
Keuntaek Lee's mother (age 76)	1915/09/02	tastelessness in the mouth
Keunsang Lee (age 40)	1915/09/07	hemoptysis
Keuntaek Lee's mother (age 76)	1915/09/14	headache
Keunho Lee (age 54)	1915/09/16	violent palpitation
Keunho Lee's concubine (age 42)	1915/09/16	bloating in GI track
Keuntaek Lee (age 52)	1915/09/19	insomnia
Keuntaek Lee's wife (age 53)	1915/09/19	bloating in GI track
Keunsang Lee (age 38)	1915/09/21	hemoptysis
Keuntaek Lee's mother (age 77)	1915/10/01	abdominal pain
Keunsang Lee (age 40)	1915/10/04	coughing
Keunho Lee (age 55)	1915/10/28	bloating in the chest
Keuntaek Lee's mother (age 76)	1915/12/09	dizziness
Keuntaek Lee's mother (age 76)	1915/12/12	dizziness
Keunsang Lee (age 40)	1915/12/14	coughing

the family disease history. This data is all the more valuable because there are no other data surviving from this period. Ex. 6) Medical records for Keuntaek Lee family (research period from 16 August ~31 December 1915) (Table 3).

The significance of individual medical history research

Haeseung Lee was 26 at that time, lived in the Castle of Loo-Dong and had already been awarded a marquise from the Japanese government. Compared to the Lee brothers, who are already known to us and had the position of viscount or baron, he was an influential person who had already become a marquis at a young age. His wife was the same age and he had a 19 year old concubine. In addition, his mother, grandmother and great grandmother visited the Bochun Clinic and his family thus was examined more than others in 1915. Haeseung Lee's mistress, whose name is unknown, was a patient treated from 24 August to 16 December 1915. She was 19 years old, examined mainly for disease of the digestive organs. She was examined for symptoms of diarrhea twice in the beginning, for a common cold on 16 September

and started treatment at the time for morbid leukorrhea of unknown cause from which she suffered for over a year. She was treated once again for morbid leukorrhea on 21 September and visited the clinic continuously until the end of the year for symptoms such as the common cold, vomiting, abdominal pain, etc. Nowadays, statistical processing of medical records is not difficult because the infrastructure system is already built. However, it is not easy to find accurate statistical data about individual medical histories from the early 1900s. Ex. 7) Concubine of Haeseung Lee, name unknown, age 19, address Donui-dong, (research period from 16 August ~ 31 December 1915, 8 examinations in total from 24 August ~ 16 December 1915) (Table 4).

Prescription adjustment research analysis

21 cases of patients who took Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San medication have been taken from the records from 16 August 1915 to 14 January 1916 in the above table. Although the name of the prescription was the same for all 21 cases, the medicine ingredients or amount vary widely. First of all, the prescription differs between men and women depending on whether *Cyperus rotundus* was included or not

Table 4. Medical records for Concubine of Haeseung Lee

Examination Y/M/D	Outbreak Y/M/D	Disease Name
1915/08/24	1915/08/21	Diarrhea
1915/09/09	1915/09/02	Diarrhea
1915/09/16	1915/09/13	pseudo common cold
1915/09/16	1914/03	morbid leukorrhea
1915/09/21	1914/03	morbid leukorrhea
1915/10/12	1915/10/10	common cold
1915/11/06	1915/11/01	Vomiting
1915/12/16	1915/12/10	abdominal pain

and the ingredients differ even for the same woman, the same menstrual pains and the same cause. Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San is a prescription that can be widely applied to various illnesses with symptoms of cold and fever. However, it is not a general prescription for random medication even though it can be widely applicable. There should be a clear principle and direction but such a principle and

direction cannot be described in a few words or writings. This is an advanced technology in the world of oriental medicine. The way to learn this technology is either to have the traditional education of an apprentice or to analyze the accumulated examples of medication inductively. The result reached by analyzing the accumulated examples of medication retroactively can decide the range of application for the prescription. For example, the range for applying the prescription must be analyzed, including the medication period, medication amount, the medicinal stuffs that should be included, the scope of medicine and dosage varying according to change in symptoms, etc. In other words, making adjustments to the prescription is mostly up to the doctor, but it should be done within the boundaries of distinct principles and directions. Ex. 8) Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San (medical chart Vol. 17 - 21, 16 Aug. 1915 ~ 14 Jan. 1916) (Table 5).

Table 5 shows the basic information arranged for

Table 5. Medical records of Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San

No.	Examination Y/M/D	Age	Sex	Symptom	Cause	Prescription name
1	1915/08/28	32	F	abdominal pain	menstruation	JSOJS
2	1915/08/31	43	M	hypochondriac pain	Pain in frank	JSOJS
3	1915/09/25	37	F	hypochondriac pain	stagnation of Ki	JSOJS
4	1915/09/29	20	F	abdominal pain	cold in GI tract	JSOJS
5	1915/09/30	40	M	chest pain	stagnation of Ki	JSOJS
6	1915/10/18	34	M	cough & exhaustion	exhaustion due to sexual indulgence	JSOJS
7	1915/11/07	26	F	menstrual pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS
8	1915/11/14	18	F	menstrual pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS
9	1915/11/15	24	F	menstrual pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS
10	1915/11/20	24	F	cough & exhaustion	exhaustion due to sexual indulgence	JSOJS
11	1915/11/24	18	F	menstrual pain	stagnation of Ki	JSOJS
12	1915/11/29	25	F	abdominal pain	cold in stomach	JSOJS
13	1915/12/03	29	F	abdominal pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS
14	1915/12/10	22	M	Cough	Pharyngolaryngeal and Common Humidity	JSOJS
15	1915/12/11	20	F	menstrual pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS
16	1915/12/14	18	F	menstrual pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS
17	1915/12/18	59	F	chest pain	stagnation of Ki	JSOJS
18	1916/01/04	32	F	back pain	menstruation	JSOJS
19	1916/01/06	48	F	chest pain	stagnation of Ki	JSOJS
20	1916/01/10	19	F	chest pain	stagnation of Ki	JSOJS
21	1919/01/10	37	F	back pain	derangement of Ki & blood	JSOJS

Table 6. The medicine ingredients of Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San

Num	AR	CP	CYR	MC	ZIR	PRA	AGR	CNR	PO	PR	CR	PR	CR	GR	ZRR	JF	PS	CF	CR	CT
2	8	4		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		2			4	2		
3	8	4	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2						
4	12	4	12	4	4	4	2	4					4	2	3	2				4
5	8	6	8	6	6	3	3		3	6	3	3	3	2	3					
6	8	4		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2				
7	8	4	12	4	4	4	4	4						2			4		4	4
8	8	4	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			4	2	3		4		4	4
9	8	4	8	3	3		3	3	3				3	2	3	2	3		3	4
10	8	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2				
11	8	4	8	4	4	4	4	4					3	2	3		4	2		4
12	8	4	8	4	4	4	4	4		4			4	2	3					
13	8	4	8	3	4		3	3			3	3	3	2	3		3	2		3
14	8	4		4	4	3	3	3	3	3			3	2	3	2				
15	8	4	8					4	4	4	4	4		2			3			
16	8	4	8	4	4	3	4	3					3	2	3		3	2		3
17	8	4		4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3					
18	8	4	8	3	3	4	4	3					3	2						3
19	8	4		4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	3					
20	8	4		4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2						3
21	8	4		3			4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	4

The above table is one that arranges the medicine ingredients of Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San in detail. The abbreviation expressions are as follows. AR = ATRACTYLODIS RHIZOMA, CP = CITRI PERICARPIMUM, CYR = CYPERI RHIZOMA, MC = MAGNOLIAE CORTEX, ZIR = ZINGIBERIS RHIZOMA, PRA = PAEONIAE RADIX ALBA, AGR = ANGELICAE GIGANTIS RADIX, CNR = CNIDII RHIZOMA, PO = PORIA, PR = PINELLIAE RHIZOMA, AF = AURANTII FRUCTUS, PR = PLATYCODI RADIX, CR = CINNAMOMI RAMULUS, GR = GLYCYRRHIZAE RADIX, ZRR = ZINGIBERIS RHIZOMA RECENS, JF = JUJUBAE FRUCTUS, PS = PERSICAE SEMEN, CF = CARTHAMI FLOS, ZER = ZEDOARIAE RHIZOMA, CT = CORYDALIDIS TUBER Provided, ZRR (ZINGIBERIS RHIZOMA RECENS) is in the unit by piece, and the rest by gram.

21 examples of Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San medication during the research period. Table 6 represents the medicine ingredients of Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San medication during medical examination and treatment. For example, the medicine ingredients of Jeung-Son-Oh-Jeok-San belonging to 'Num 3' at table 5 correspond to the contents of 'Num 3' at Table 6.

Seasonal peculiarity research of disease and treatment prescription

The frequency of a particular disease and the medication count of a particular prescription are briefly plotted with a comparison for a month of both summer and winter in example 9. Geo-Seo-

Hwa-Joong-Tang is a prescription for abdominal pain caused by having cold food in summer, with symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, thirst and failure to eat. This prescription was later detailed in the posthumous work, 『Chungganguigam』. Although traditional Korean oriental medicine branched out from its dependent relation with Chinese medicine in the 1600s, the influence of traditional Chinese medicine remained strong in medical terminology. etc. However, Korean medicine started to be distinguished from TCM starting with prescription names in the 1800s. The contents of a prescription also changed uniquely to fit Korean requirements. This prescription was a specialized treatment prescription developed to

cure the symptoms of digestive organs in relation with hot weather, and is seldom prescribed in winter. Many treatment technologies exist in oriental medicine which take such seasonal change into account.

The variation of medication ratio by 15 day periods for Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San, the prescription for common cold that Younghun Kim often used, is studied and described in Example 10. Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San is said to be the basic prescription in 『Chungganguigam』 to treat the general early symptoms of common cold, headache, back pain, nasal stuffiness and discharge, mild chills, limb aches, energy stagnation and appetite loss. Kim used this prescription as the basic prescription 8, 9 out of 10 times for the common cold. The Chunggang Medical Records have only the name of the prescription for Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San, and there is no detailed separate description in many cases. It appears that Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San was a kind of general prescription. The medication ratio below 5% in summer increased by 8% in September as the weather changed drastically. It decreased below 5% once again in October and increased by 9% in November, the point when the weather again changed drastically. In addition, it showed a rapid increase by 15% in December in the extremely cold season. Ex. 9) Patients examined for symptoms of diarrhea were 48 cases in total from 16 August to 15 September 1915, and there are 7 cases prescribed, with Geo-Seo-Hwa-Joong-Tang among them. In December of the same year, patients examined for

Table 7. The medication ratio of Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San

Period	BGJGS case	Total case	Ratio (%)
16 Aug ~ 31 Aug	5	110	≒ 4.5
1 Sep ~ 15 Sep	12	142	≒ 8.5
16 Sep ~ 30 Sep	13	155	≒ 8.3
1 Oct ~ 15 Oct	4	99	≒ 4.0
16 Oct ~ 31 Oct	3	89	≒ 3.3
1 Nov ~ 15 Nov	6	61	≒ 9.8
16 Nov ~ 30 Nov	9	93	≒ 9.6
1 Dec ~ 15 Dec	6	99	≒ 6.0
16 Dec ~ 31 Dec	9	58	≒ 15.5

BGJGS = Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San.

symptoms of diarrhea were 8 in total and there is no case prescribed with Geo-Seo-Hwa-Joong-Tang among them (Fig. 6). Ex. 10) Bo-Gu-Jeong-Gi-San medication, research period 16 August ~31 December 1915 (Table 7).

CONCLUSION

Traditional Korean medicine is uniquely Korean, combining the strengths of both Chinese and local medicine. Traditional Korean medicine started to advance in the 1100s, by distinguishing itself from traditional Chinese medicine. In the 15th century, it produced the results of a large-scale medical books 『Ui-Bang-Ryu-Chui』 by collecting and condensing medical information from the whole East Asian area. It boasted a medical level not inferior to that of China in East Asia. As traditional Korean medicine had already reached the level of Chinese medicine

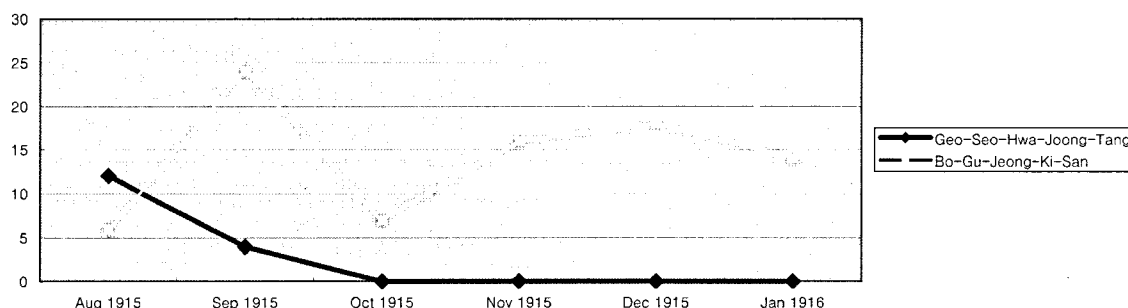


Fig. 6. Research of seasonal distribution of treatment prescription.

in the 17th century, it started to show its uniqueness gradually, continuously integrating local medical requirements. Such results began to emerge gradually in the early 20th century and Lee-Je-Ma's "The Medical Theory of Four Types of Constitution" also appeared at about the same time (Han, 1989; Cha, 2000; Kim, 2003). The author of the Chunggang Medical Records was a medical scholar who learned the essence of traditional medicine. He interacted with senior doctors from the Imperial House in Seoul at that time, succeeded to the high essence of traditional medicine, and continued to practice in the clinic and left related records. Consequently, while studying the newly discovered Chunggang Medical Records, the medical and historical value was very clear. In order to appreciate its importance, this study extracted a sample database and analyzed various factors.

In conclusion, the Chunggang Medical Records contain details about patient information including name, address, age, and occupation, and the particulars of the disease including outbreak date, cause, symptom, prescription, contents of prescription, and dosage. The data contain much that is important historically, as well as medically. Through an overall analysis of the documents, it will become possible to understand more clearly the medical situation in Korea during the early 1900s. To elaborate, these records are raw historical data reflecting the medical situation of individuals in Korea at that time. Also, by studying the medical history of a particular person or family, it is possible to deduce the characteristics of patients' individual medical histories and family medical history from 100 years ago. In the Chunggang Medical Records, the contents of the oriental medical prescriptions are listed in detail. This will definitely prove to be invaluable to scholars studying traditional medicine. In this research, one result of data analysis shows that there was a seasonal difference in the diseases and the prescriptions. Changing the treatment method according to season is a well known distinction of

Eastern medicine, which seeks harmony between the universe and the body. Analyzing data aggregated over some 60 years is expected to help in illuminating the principles or patterns of change.

In addition, the author of the records, Kim Younghun, was on intimate terms with the doctors in the Imperial House from the late 1800s. It is possible that the contents of the Chunggang Medical Records reflect the medical expertise of the Imperial House. However, it is hard to assert at the present that the Chunggang Medical Records contain the medical techniques of the Imperial House, because there has been no study on the characteristics of the medicine practiced there. It is hoped that a broader, more detailed study of this aspect will follow.

Recently, the Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine, a national research center, has taken notice of the value of the Chunggang Medical Records and is giving full support to building a database based on the records.

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