

Antibiotics in ancient Iraq

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♦ The algae types have been fully described but no medical use mentioned.

♦ Two types of mosses have been named, ① the herbal moss and ② the river moss, both have been used in medicine: (1) oil is your ointment, mosses is your dressing (2) your medicine is the mosses that cover the surface of the water (3) why you do not use the moss for your eyes (4) burn the mosses on fire and use them for treatment.

♦ The medical use of the molds was written as such : (1) take little from the ointment containing the molds (2) the seeds of the mold is useful in treatment (3) if the head of the patient became full of pustules and the hair start to fall then treat with the molds.

It is apparent from what have been mentioned, that the Assyrians *asu* (healer) have used the fungi, algae, mosses and molds in treating conditions that look like what we treat with antibiotics today.

Amongst the 30000 cuneiform tablets of Ashurbanipal library (2000 BC), 21 were on the medical uses of the fungi (*kammu*), algae (*katarru*), mosses (*alapû*) and molds (*kibû*).

♦ Six types of fungi have been described, (1) shoe maker fungi (*kammu Ša iškapi*), found on discarded pieces of skin in the damp area of his shop (2) field fungi (*kammu eqli*), found on the field ground (3) mountain fungi (*kammu šadi*) those on the mountain ground, (4) mule fungi (*kammu imeri*) in the mule feedures, (5) brick fungi (*kammu aguri*) on the bricks and (6) goldsmith fungi, (*kammu gurguri*) in his shop.

The shoe maker fungi was used in following forms : (1) mix it with animal fat and apply on the anus (2) make it as suppositories and insert into the rectum (3) treat the eyes with it (4) useful in treating inflamed ears (5) may be used as emetic.