

---

---

## 自序 Preface

---

This book was first published in Tái wān as a text intended to teach Chinese medical English to Chinese students. The present U.S. edition has been prepared in response to demand from English-speaking students who have found the book to be a useful introduction to the concepts of Chinese medicine and to the English terminology described in greater detail in *A Practical Dictionary of Chinese Medicine* (Paradigm Publications, 1998). It is particularly suitable for students who are beginning to learn Chinese medicine after having studied Chinese and for those who wish to master the English terminology for the purposes of translation. Students with a knowledge of Chinese medicine who are new to Chinese might find our *Chinese Medical Chinese: Grammar and Vocabulary* more useful.

The present book covers just over a thousand commonly used Chinese terms in thematic order. Each English term is followed by the corresponding Chinese term in simplified and complex characters, as well as the Pīnyīn transcription. The pronunciation of the English term is given in Kenyon & Knott (KK) transcription for the benefit of non-English speakers. The definitions and clinical significance of terms are written entirely in English. Most of the terms used in the text of each entry are to be found as individual headwords.

At the end of each chapter are exercises. These not only provide activities for students to do in class or at home, but also furnish teachers with examples for examination questions.

The first block of questions tests students on their understanding of the text. Students are encouraged to use the index to find the point in the text where the solution is to be found. The other three blocks of questions ask for English and Pīnyīn equivalents of Chinese terms, Chinese and English equivalents of Pīnyīn terms, and Chinese and Pīnyīn equivalents of English terms, respectively. Questions of this type are of course suitable only for Chinese students learning the English terminology or English-speaking students learning the Chinese terminology.

There are five appendixes. The first appendix explains the Pīnyīn transcription system and the pronunciation of Chinese words.

The second appendix shows the correspondences between the Mandarin phonetic symbols for Chinese characters used in Tái wān and PRC Pīnyīn sys-

tem that is now used internationally, helping Tái wān students to learn the Pīnyīn.

The third appendix presents the most important characters used in the terminology of Chinese medicine, with examples of their usage. Both single character and example terms are presented in simplified and complex form, so that students can choose which to learn, if not both. This appendix is primarily intended for Western students learning Chinese, but it is also helpful to any student seeking to understand the correspondences between the English and Chinese.

The fourth appendix contains the answers to the questions in the body of the book, so that especially students working on their own have access to the correct answers.

The fifth appendix is a list of entry head terms in the main part of the book. This has been included to help students to memorize terms.

At the end of the book is a substantial index that includes all English headwords and their corresponding Pīnyīn and Chinese terms as well as English, Pīnyīn/Chinese, and Latin names of medicinals and the English and Pīnyīn/Chinese names of medical formulas. In this way, the index serves the additional function of a Chinese-English English-Chinese dictionary of nearly 70 pages.

The English terminology varies considerably from writer to writer. In this book, most of the terms are rendered in English on the basis of one English word to one Chinese character, discounting grammatical words, e.g., 命 门 火 衰 *mìng mén huǒ shuāi*, debilitation of the life gate fire. The main exceptions are where a multiple-character Chinese term has a single-word English equivalent (e.g., 遗尿 *yí niào*, enuresis; 斜视 *xié shì*, squint) and where two virtually synonymous Chinese characters are used to create a euphonic term (e.g., 舌苔干燥 *shé tāi gān zào*, dry tongue fur; 扬手掷足 *yáng shǒu zhí zú*, flailing of the arms and legs). In translation, we have deliberately avoided rendering traditional Chinese medical concepts with Western medical terms that reflect the Western medical understanding and obscure the Chinese medical understanding. For example, we render 风火眼 *fēng huǒ yǎn* as wind-fire eye rather than as acute conjunctivitis. In this way, it is hoped that we can convey the original concepts of Chinese medicine accurately, without the misleading introduction of the medical ideas of acute and inflammation. Although the correspondences between Chinese medical and Western medical disease names is currently an important issue, discussion of them in translated texts should be reserved for notes and commentaries. In this case, a Western medical term should not be substituted for faithful translation since it deprives the reader of the understanding of the disease in terms of wind and fire.

Many Chinese medical terms have more than one meaning. For example, 滑 *huá* is used in different senses and as different parts of speech: describing the pulse, it refers to the tactile quality of slipperiness; describing the tongue fur, it refers to the visual quality of glossiness (or the tactile quality of slipperiness); and describing loss of semen, it refers to an uncontrolled slipping or flow out of the body. In this text, we have rendered 滑脉 *huá mài* as slippery pulse, 滑苔 *huá tāi* as glossy tongue fur, and 精滑 *jīng huá* as seminal efflux. As a matter of translation principle, we have tried to keep the number of renderings for each character to a minimum so that the correspondences between Chinese terms and English terms can be easily mastered by students and translators.

It should be noted that some of the Latin names of medicinals have been revised to conform to the *Chinese Pharmacopoeia* (2000). As a result of this revision, certain English names of medicinals and formulas have also been changed.

In our view, knowledge of medical Chinese is inestimably valuable for understanding Chinese medicine with clarity and precision. While a good deal of work is required from students to attain perfect comprehension of medical Chinese, each step along the way has its own rewards. Further, a growing body of translated literature that reflects terminology consistent with this text will support students' efforts to learn Chinese. Our aims will have been fulfilled when students can use this knowledge to improve their clinical practice or contribute to the westward transmission of Chinese medicine.

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to students of China Medical College and Chang Gung University for their suggestions and corrections, and to Thomas Dey for his careful editing of the text.