

Pharmacopæia of Medicines used in Carnatic and compiled in 1751 A.D. The author of these three books was Sekunder Ben Ismail of Constantinople, Physician to the Nawab Mohammad Aly Khan of Arcot, to whom the books are dedicated.

Lastly, books written under the direction of Tippoo Sultan himself are very interesting and instructive (Cat. page 113). These are important for the history of Medicine in Mysore. Some of them are in the traditional or orthodox style.

No. 42, *Bihral Munafi* (The Sea of Profit) is a treatise on midwifery, treatment of children, enchantments, exorcisms of devils, etc., by Mulud Mohammad, dedicated to Tippoo Sultan (1794 A.D.).

No. 43 is a general treatise on Medicine, alphabetically arranged, composed by Mohammad Nasir Afshrar Turk and dedicated to Tippoo Sultan.

Other volumes illustrate the new trends and influences. Besides, they clearly establish the fact that contrary to the prejudiced reports of European historians, Tippoo was very progressive in his outlook and views, and encouraged the study of the European literature on Medicine, trickling in slowly through the trader, the diplomat and the doctor. Knowledge and particularly Medical Science, was liberally patronised and actively encouraged by him, irrespective of its source or country; the knowledge itself was freely incorporated and utilised for the benefit of the people. This laudable spirit of Tippoo Sultan is amply borne out by the following works:

No. 44. *Kanun Der Ilmi Tibb*. A translation of the complete London Dispensatory: The date and the name of the translator are not given. The translator says in his preface that this work is the result of the united efforts of all the learned (physicians) of Europe and translated by the Order of Tippoo Sultan;

No. 45. *Terjumeah Ketabi Angriz*. (Translation of the English treatise on Electrical and Medical Experiments);

No. 46. *Turjumah Ketabi Freng*. (Translation of Dr. Cochrane's treatise on "Twist of the Intestines".)

In addition to these books in the section on Physic, there is, in the section on Arts and Sciences, a book, No. 9 (page 97 of the Cat.) called "A Treatise on Botany and Natural History" translated by the Order of Tippoo Sultan from French and English books. It has good etchings of plants.

The Unknown Authors.—In a footnote (p. 97) Professor Stewart says, "It appears that Tippoo Sultan was an encourager and patron of the Arts and it is stated that 45 books on different sciences were either compiled or translated from different languages under his immediate inspection or auspices. It is probable that some of our unfortunate countrymen, who were so long detained in captivity and had thereby acquired a knowledge of the Dekkani languages assisted him in these pursuits". It is also possible that there were some Europeans in his employ as personal physicians and surgeons, who were encouraged to do literary work under the patronage of the Sultan.

A SOUTH SEAS OBSERVATORY

THE Bosscha Sterrewacht Observatory at Lembang in Indonesia, which was seriously damaged during the war, is to receive material assistance organized by UNESCO.

American and Dutch astronomers are collaborating to ensure the construction of a new type of astronomical telescope, consisting of two minors, one of them 3 ft. in diameter.

The Bosscha Observatory is situated in what the famous astronomer Dr. Gerard P. Kuiper of the University of Chicago Yerkey's Observatory describes as "one of the most beautiful spots on earth".

The opportunities for good research work

at this observatory are great, because of its favourable location 7° south of the Equator, which makes the southern stars visible; and its adequate elevation, 4,200 ft., which ensures a good climate.

The observatory was heavily damaged during the war and the young Director and his two assistants died at the hands of the Japanese. Chicago University and Yerkey Observatory, the University of Leiden, Holland, the University of Louvain, Belgium, and Unesco are shortly to sign an agreement whereby this Far East observatory will receive help, and thus be able to play an important part in advancing astronomical knowledge. (Courtesy of *Courier*, UNESCO, 1-11-1949.)