Ayurveda has moved from a revival mode to a renaissance movement in the last two to three decades. It has been a challenge how to capture such a fast movement into a snapshot of a book. Earlier Patwardhan, Tillu and Mutalik made such a heroic effort in their volume on "Integrative approaches for health: Biomedical Research, Ayurveda and Yoga" [1]. The book was reviewed in J-AIM too. The new National Health Policy of India (2017) has resolved to make AVUSH a part of mainstream healthcare. As a consequence, books of this genre will be much in demand. We need other leaders of AYUSH to also fulfill this need.

This multi-author volume 'Ayurveda: At the Turning Point' has been written from the perspective of how major changes and development are evolving in Ayurveda in the new millennium. It is indeed a Herculean task to cover the multiple dimensions of a renaissance occurring in a five-millennial old healing system, which has been challenged as to its epistemology/technology by dramatic advances in biomedical sciences. In seventeen chapters, the authors have tried their best to cover several domains of Ayurveda familiar to them. The editors already have an enviable record of writing books, leading and doing work in Ayurveda, for decades. Their compendial skills, positive attitude to Ayurveda and vast knowledge of plants have defined the very structure, organization of the chapters and also the scope of the volume.

In the foreword, Dr S.S. Handa has stated, "Ayurveda in the twenty-first century needs emergence of new ideas, adventures and liberation, in order to play its requisite role in the newly emerging medical pluralism ...Given our strength in molecular biology, phytochemistry, biomedicine and Ayurveda, efforts should be directed to develop a national programme for transdisciplinary research to achieve global scientific leadership in complementary and integrative healthcare." In the preface, Katiyar bemoans the miniscule contribution of the classical Ayurvedic formulations (Rs.1000 crores) as compared to the Rs 10,000 crore turnover of Ayurvedic drugs. He has stressed the dedication of an entire chapter for covering research abstracts from two journals, while regretting the lack of research publications in eminent journals. Several Indian and foreign journals (including J-AIM) could have been covered in that chapter. But this lacuna is taken care of in the tables of the next chapter.

C. P. Khare has been active in Ayurveda since independence. His passion for Indian medicinal plants, at the age of 85 years, is very admirable. He has frankly shared his unpleasant interactions with the Central Council of Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS). He has rightly stated that the red line of territorial rights will have to be crossed and 'Ayurvedic wisdom has to be filtered into a scientific regime to bridge the gap between a Vaidya and a scientist' for herbal research. But the advocacy for Vaidya-Scientists, championed and executed for a renaissance, has not been cited [2].

In the very first chapter-Ayurveda at cross-roads- Katiyar has listed the broad topics aimed at by the book: (1) Purists vs. progressives, (2) North vs. South, (3) Consumerism, (4) Infrastructure, (5) Industry, (7) Regulations, (8) Research, (9) Education, (10) Governance, (11) Globalisation, (12) Services, (13) Pharmacopoeia, (14) Quality standards, (15) Good Manufacturing Practice, and (16) Pharmaceutical dosage forms. In this chapter he has succinctly provided valuable information that whets the appetite of the reader. However, the very themes constitute a larger bite than can be chewed or digested. This challenge can be seen in the inadequate coverage in some of the subsequent chapters. Truly, each of the topics deserves much more in depth coverage and a critical analysis. The reprinted abstracts from journals, the tables of pharmacological/clinical research on plants and of the ready reckoner from the pharmacopoeia have taken up a lot of space (circa 400 pages). As a consequence, space for a critical review is limited.

However, the tables on pharmacological/clinical research on plants and of the ready reckoner from the pharmacopoeia do cover a wealth of information that would be of much value to those who often get frustrated in locating cogent information on plants with the internet or in a single volume. But the accuracy and reliability of the data tabulated is quite difficult to assess from such
The approaches of Ayurvedic Pharmacopidemiology, Observational Therapeutics and Reverse Pharmacology of medicinal plants and Ayurvedic drugs do not find place in the volume, despite the fact that this approach has gone global [3].

The chapter on the Ayurvedic revival movement in India from 1885 to 1947, by Uma Ganesan, is a reprint of her earlier publication. She has a scholarly discourse of the revival. But her primary sources are lop-sided and except Bengal and South most other parts of India are left out. The role of Vaidya Shankar Daji Pade has been totally missed out [4]. There is an urgent need to cover the pre-independent state of Ayurveda by a task force.

The coverage of work from the government councils and institutions has been sizeable in the volume. The huge endeavour in Ayurveda in the non-government and private sectors deserved more attention. Rawat, while covering the contributions of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has completely forgotten the CSIR-NMITLI programme – a major national initiative, for arthritis, diabetes and hepatitis. Similarly Tandon, in her review, has omitted the ICMR Advanced Centre of Reverse Pharmacology for Traditional Medicine at Kasturba Health Society. But these are minor criticisms. For those who wish to have an overview of the work in India on Ayurveda, the book provides a basic valuable bibliographic base.

The format of the book is excellent, with an impressive cover with a beautiful picture of saffron flowers, with the chemical structure of picrocrocin. However, the lack of illustrations and graphs in the book is a negative point. As the Chinese proverb goes, ‘One picture is equal to a thousand words.’ The schema of Systems Ayurveda and the review on bridging Ayurveda with evidence-based scientific approaches in medicine could have been covered [5].

The book is strongly recommended to Ayurvedic students, faculty, AYUSH executives, Vaidya-Scientists, pharmacologists, pharmacists, phytochemists, R&D Laboratories, Ayurvedic industry and all those who are interested in Complementary and Integrative Medicine. It can serve as a standard reference volume and could inspire basic and translational research in India and abroad, based on the hits and leads covered.

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