MEDICINAL GLOSSARY
Chapter — 10

MEDICINAL GLOSSARY

Abortifacient: Anything used to cause or induce an abortion.
Abortion: The termination of pregnancy before the foetus reaches the state of viability.
Abscess: A localized collection of pus in any part of the body resulting from disintegration of tissue.
Acrid: Burning, bitter, irritating.
Adenopathy: Swelling and morbid change in lymph nodes.
Adulterant: An impure substance in the formulation or product.
Ague: Archaic term for malarial fever; a chill.
Alopecia: Absence or loss of hair, esp. of the head.
Amenorrhea: The pathological absence or stoppage of menstrual discharge from the uterus.
Anaemia: A condition of the blood in which there are quantitative and qualitative changes in red blood cells, haemoglobin and bone marrow.
Angina: A tight strangling or oppressive sensation, discomfort or pain in the chest.
Anodyne: Any drug or medicine, which stills pain or quiets disturbed feelings.
Anthelminthic: An agent that destroys parasitic intestinal worms.
Anti-bacterial: An agent that destroys or stops the growth of bacteria.
Anti-inflammatory: An agent that counteracts inflammation.
Anti-microbial: An agent that destroys or prevents the development of microorganisms.
Anti-odontalgic: An agent that relieves toothache.
Anti-pyretic: An agent that allays fever.
Anti-rheumatic: An agent that prevents or relieves rheumatism.

Anti-septic: A chemical sterilizing substance, sufficiently non-toxic for superficial application to living tissue, in order to kill pathogenic microbes.

Anti-spasmodic: Any substance that prevents or relieves spasm or convulsion by lowering tonus of plain muscle.

Anti-tussive: A remedy for cough.

Anti-viral: Opposing the action of a virus.

Aperient: A very mild laxative.

Aphrodisiac: An agent that stimulates sexual desire.

Aromatic: Possessing a spicy odour or taste.

Asthma: Syndrome characterised by paroxysmal attacks of dyspnoea of expiratory type.

Astringent: Arresting secretion or discharge by causing contraction of tissues.

Biliousness: A symptom of disordered condition of the liver.

Boil: An acute circumscribed inflammation of the subcutaneous layers of the skin, gland or hair follicle.

Bronchitis: An inflammation of the mucous membrane of the larger and medium-sized bronchi.

Bronchosis: An ailment of the mucous membrane.

Bruise: An accumulation of blood in the connective tissues in the vicinity of an injury, usually visible as a discolouration of, or swelling under the skin.

Calculus: A solid pathological concretion, usually of inorganic matter in a matrix of protein and pigment.

Cancer: A malignant tumour.

Cardiac: Relating to the heart.

Cardiopathy: Any disease of the heart.

Catarrh: An inflammation of the mucous membranes, esp. of head and throat.

Cephalosis: An ailment of the head.

Colic: A severe spasmodic griping pain, which increases in intensity to a climax, then remits for a short period and returns within equal intensity.

Coma: An abnormal deep stupor occurring in illness, as a result of it, or due to an injury.
Conception: The act of becoming pregnant.
Conjunctivosis: An ailment of the conjunctiva, the mucous membrane that lines eyelids.
Constipation: A condition in which the bowels are opened only infrequently and with difficulty.
Contraceptive: Any process, method or device that prevents conception.
Contusion: Any injury in which the skin is not broken; a bruise.
Convalescence: The period of recovery after the termination of a disease or an operation.
Convulsion: A violent involuntary contraction, either prolonged or spasmodic, of the skeletal musculature.
Cramps: Painful and involuntary contraction of muscles, leading to spasm of variable duration.
Cyanogenic: Any agent that produces the poisonous gas, CN – CN.
Cytotoxic: Relating to Cytotoxin.
Cytotoxin: A chemotactic factor, which directly attacks leucocytes.
Debility: Weakness of tonicith in functions or organs of the body.
Decoction: A liquid medicinal preparation made by boiling vegetable substances with water.
Decongestant: An agent that reduces congestion, esp. nasal.
Delirium: A state of mental confusion and excitement, characterized by disorientation for time and place, usually with illusions and hallucinations.
Demulcent: A substance, which protects the mucous membrane and allays irritation.
Dentition: The type, number and arrangement of teeth in the dental arch.
Deobstruent: Having the property of getting rid of matter causing any blockage, e.g. of the bowel.
Depurative: Tending to cleanse or purify.
Detergent: A medicine that purges or cleanses.
Diabetes: A general term for diseases characterized by excessive urination.
Diaphoretic: A sudorific or an agent that increases perspiration.
Diarrhoea: The frequent passage of unformed liquid stools.
Discutient: An agent, which affects the disappearance of the inflammatory exudates or the dispersal of swellings and tumours.

Diuretic: Producing an increase in the volume of urine.

Dropsy: The abnormal collection of serous fluid in tissue spaces or serous cavities.

Dysentery: Inflammation of the colonic mucosa, resulting in passage of blood and mucus with tenesmus.

Dysmenorrhoea: Pain occurring in the back and lower abdomen at or about the time of menses.

Dyspepsia: Difficulty in digestion, usually due to nervous or reflex causes.

Dysuria: A condition in which passing of urine is painful or difficult.

Emetic: Causing vomiting.

Emmenagogue: A drug or other agent that promotes or assists the menstrual flow.

Emollient: Any substance that softens the skin and renders it more pliant.

Enteritis: Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestine.

Epistaxis: Bleeding from nose.

Erysipelas: Acute febrile disease, with localized inflammation and redness of skin and subcutaneous tissue, accompanied by systemic disturbance.

Expectorant: Aiding the secretion of the mucous membrane of the air passages and the removal of fluid by spitting.

Febrifuge: Any remedy or drug, which mitigates or removes fever.

Fever: Elevation of body temperature above the normal.

Flu: Influenza.

Fluke: A parasitic worm belonging to the Class Trematoda, Phylum Platyhelminthes.

Gastrosis: An ailment of the stomach.

Gonorrhoea: An inflammatory disease of the genitourinary passages, characterized by pain or micturition and a purulent discharge.

Gravel: Very small or sand like concretions of uric acid and other substances, which constitute the basic material of calculus in the kidney.

Haemorrhage: Bleeding; the escape of blood from any part of the vascular system.

Haemorrhoid: A swelling at the anal margin; a pile.

Haemostatic: Arresting haemorrhage.
Hepatitis: Any non-inflammatory disease of the liver.
Herpes: Vesicular eruption caused by a virus.
Hiccough/Hiccup: Spasmodic periodic closure of the glottis following spasmodic lowering of the diaphragm, causing a short, sharp, inspiratory cough.
Humour: Any fluid of the body; any chronic cutaneous disease.
Hydrophobia: Morbid fear of water.
Hyperglycaemia: An increase in blood-sugar concentration.
Hypnotic: The process of inducing sleep.
Hypoglycaemia: A low blood-sugar concentration.
Hypotensive: Diseases in which the blood pressure falls.
Hysteria: A temporary mental disorder, simulating almost any type of physical disease.
Implantation: The embedding of the fertilized ovum in the uterine mucous membrane.
Induration: The act of hardening.
Infection: The state in which the body or a part of it is invaded by a pathogenic agent that, under favourable conditions, multiplies and produces injurious effects.
Inflammation: The succession of changes that occur in living tissue when it is injured.
Insanity: Mental disease.
Insomnia: The condition of being unable to sleep.
Jaundice: A syndrome characterized by an excess of bile pigment in the blood and consequent deposition of bile pigment in the skin.
Laxative: A food or chemical substance that facilitates passage of bowel content at the time of defecation; Aperient.
Leprosy: A chronic infective disease causing lesions in the skin and nerves.
Menopause: The period, which marks the permanent cessation of menstrual activity.
Menorrhagia: Excessive bleeding at the time of menstrual period.
Menses: The monthly discharge of blood (catamenia) from the uterus.
Menstruation: The periodic discharge of bloody fluid from the uterus, occurring at more or less regular intervals during the life of a woman, from the age of puberty to menopause.

Metrorrhagia: Bleeding from the uterus, esp. at any time other than during menstrual period.

Myalgia: Tenderness or pain in the muscles.

Nausea: Unpleasant sensation, usually preceding vomiting.

Nephrosis: Condition in which there are degenerative changes in the kidneys, without the occurrence of inflammation.

Neuralgia: A painful affection of the nerves, due to functional disturbances or neuritis.

Odontosis: Development of teeth.

Ophthalmia: Conjunctivitis or inflammation of whole eye.

Ophthalmic: Relating to eye.

Paralysis: Loss of motor power due to a functional or organic disorder of neural or neuromuscular mechanisms.

Pectoral: Belonging to the thorax.

Pertussis: Whooping cough.

Pharmacology: The branch of medical science, which deals especially with action, but also of the properties and characteristics of drugs.

Phlegm: Mucus, especially that secreted in the respiratory passages.

Piles: Dilated blood vessel in the rectal mucosa forming a vascular tumour; Haemorrhoids.

Pleurisy: Inflammation of the pleura, i.e. the serous membrane that enfolds both lungs.

Pneumonia: Inflammation of the lungs, caused primarily by bacteria, viruses and chemical irritants.

Poison: Any substance taken into the body by inhalation, ingestion or absorption that interferes with normal physiological functions.

Psychopathy: Any mental disease, esp. one associated with defective character or personality.
Puerperium: The period of 42 days following childbirth and expulsion of the placenta and membranes.

Pulmonosis: Ailment of the lung.

Purgative: Any substance that promotes evacuation of the bowel.

Refrigerant: A medium that cools.

Resolvent: Causing resolution of a tumour or swelling; an agent that checks an inflammation, or effects absorption of a new growth.

Rheumatism: Any painful condition arising in musco-skeletal tissues.

Rhinosis: Ailment of the nasal mucous membrane.

Rickets: A deficiency condition in children, which causes abnormalities in shape and structure of bones.

Sciatica: Severe pain in the leg along the course of sciatic nerve, felt at back of thigh, running down the inside of the leg.

Sclerosis: A hardening or induration of an organ or tissue, esp. one due to excessive growth of fibrous tissue.

Scrofula: A variety of tuberculous adenitis that is most frequently encountered.

Sedative: A substance, the administration of which results in diminished activity of an organ or tissue or of whole organism.

Septic: Pertaining to pathogenic organisms or their toxins.

Sore: Any type of tender or painful ulcer or lesion of the skin or mucous membrane.

Spasm: A sudden, powerful, involuntary contraction of muscle.

Stimulant: Producing stimulation.

Sting: Sharp smarting sensation, as of a wound or astringent.

Stomatosis: Any disease of the mouth.

Strangury: Painful and interrupted urination in drops, produced by spasmodic muscular contraction of urethra and bladder.

Styptic: Stopping a haemorrhage by astringent action; contracting a blood vessel.

Suppuration: The production or exudation of pus.

Swelling: An abnormal transient enlargement, esp. one appearing on the surface of the body.

Taenifuge: An agent that expels tapeworms.
**Tonic**: A medicine that increases strength and tone.

**Tumour**: A swelling.

**Ulcer**: An open sore or lesion of the skin or mucous membrane, accompanied by sloughing of inflamed necrotic tissue.

**Vertigo**: A sensation of moving about in space or having objects move about the person, as a result of disturbance of equilibratory apparatus.

**Vitiated**: Injured, contaminated, impaired of use or efficiency.

**Vulnerary**: An agent used to assist in wound healing.

**Wound**: Break in the continuity of soft parts of body structures, caused by violence or trauma to tissues.