

RAMAZ KHACHAPURIDZE, RUSUDAN KASHIA

FAMILY MEDICAL TRADITIONS (ACCORDING TO THE DATA OF KVEMO (LOWER) IMERETI)

Folk medicine is one of the subjects of the ethnography; its study is of particular importance for the acquaintance of the people's traditions and the common ways of life and culture.

Preparing and administering of the healing medicines and means of the most effective reputations were passed through ancestry that promoted the establishment of the rich traditional family medical culture.

Medical knowledge was kept in secret and the families of the same family names were responsible to guard prescription and methods (sometimes referred to as 'magic') of its preparation. Nowadays the families normally do not keep the healing means in secret.

The field practice of Kvemo Imereti aiming at collecting the ethnographic materials revealed that there are still people who are interested in folk medicine and preserve the knowledge and experience of their ancestors. Among them is even the healing of patients with magic-ritualistic traditions, praying etc. that retains some importance in several cases.

We think that the further continuation of the ethnographic study of the Georgian family medicine will reveal many unknown means of traditional healing.