

ALOE VERA IN ORIENTAL DERMATOLOGY

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"Only in the last few years have physicians in America been acquainted with the value of Aloe vera in the treatment of radio dermatitis and of certain chronic ulcerations. . . . From examination of the most reliable treatises on Chinese materia medica it is believed that jelly leek is a local name for aloe in Tibet and its vicinity. The common name in China is Lu Hui (Lu means black and Hui deposits). The fresh plant is perhaps seldom used in China, but the jelly of the leaves is desiccated and sold in drug stores; thus it has its name.

"There are, apparently, more than one species of Aloe which have been used in Chinese medicine. Thus, in Stuart's 'Chinese Materia Medica' it is described under the name 'Aloe vulgaris.' Besides its use internally, mention is made that: 'It is now used mainly as a wash for ecremationous skin effections, being combined with licorice for that purpose'

"During the Tang Dynasty, 618 - 905 A. D., it was advocated for the treatment of sinusitis by local application and for the reduction of fevers in children by internal use. A scholar named Liu Yu-hsi (772-842 A. D.) derived dramatic results by the application of the fresh leaf on his eczematous skin on his trip to Tibet. This was the only reference to use of the fresh leaf for cutaneous ailments.

"During the Sung Dynasty, 960 to 1276 A. D., aloe was prescribed as a cathartic and an anthelmintic and also for the control of convulsions in children, all by internal administration."
