Press Cutting – The Amazing Arrows

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THE AMAZING ARROWS

By JEREMY SANDFORD



SIDNEY ROSE-NEIL
"A cheaper treatment"

WARRIORS on the Chinese battlefields were amazed. Some who had been shot by arrows recovered from long-standing diseases.

How could this be? Trying to figure this out resulted in acupuncture, thousands of years ago.

It is a system of healing in which tiny needles are stuck into the patient — not so far that they hurt, but far enough not to fall out.

Acupuncture was almost unknown in Britain 15 years ago. But now there are 200 acupuncturists registered at the Acupuncture Association in London.

Some are British, some of Chinese

THE ACUPUNCTURIST

extraction. Each has done a long course of medical training.

Sidney Rose-Neil, who practises at the Acupuncture Association, says: "Acupuncture is growing in popularity all the time.

"In China and other Far Eastern countries, it has been standard treatment for 5,000 years.

How does acupuncture work?

Energy

"We believe that our bodies are held together by a number of vibrating spirals of energy," Mr Rose-Neil says.

"Where the spirals cut the surface of the body are active points.

"If the energy is running too fast or too slow, a person falls ill.

"So we insert very thin needles into these points, thus stimulating or calming down the energy in the spirals."

Mr Rose-Neil, who is 51, says: "The conventional British doctors are doing a splendid job.

"They work immensely hard, but they are costing this country a lot of money.

"And it's possible that they're not as successful as most people think.

"The National Health Service costs £6,000million a year.

"Each visit to a doctor costs the taxpayer £4.

"The time may well come when we can no longer afford all this.

"Acupuncture is much cheaper. It can reduce pain. It has great success with migraine, chronic headaches, rheumatics, lumbago, neck and shoulder pains, and general aches and pains."

Downstairs at the clinic, I talked to someone who feels that the techniques practised in acupuncture have done her a power of good.

Kate Baxter, a Nottingham musician and educationalist in her fifties, told me:

"In my job I have to do a lot of piano playing and conducting. I fell on the beach last year, hurt my arm, and was in agony.

"I tried the NHS doctors, and none of them could help me.

Relief

"Then I came here. It was terrific. I had almost immediate relief.

"Each time they put the needles in at a different place and each time I felt better. I shall go on using acupuncture all my life."

A DOCTOR SAYS: "Acupuncture may have a painkilling effect, but this may be because the patient expects it to.

"This is being scientifically investigated

"Until it has been proved, I certainly don't intend to practise it."