

SOME QUEER CHINESE CUSTOMS.

A Chinaman never shakes hands with you, but shakes his own hand instead. We cut our finger nails short; they let theirs grow long. Long finger nails denote the lady and gentleman in China. Ladies sometimes have silver shields which they put over their nails to keep them from breaking.

The Chinese do not kiss. They seldom embrace, and in bowing to one another they bend down almost to the ground. Men and boys in our land remove their hats when they enter the house, in China they keep them on.

The women and girls do not receive visitors in company with their husbands, sons, and brothers. When a Chinese doctor is called to attend a woman or girl he generally sees only her wrist.

Chinese girls are not courted. Marriages are made through their parents. A husband seldom sees his wife until he is married. The wife is the slave of her mother-in-law, and can be whipped by her when she disobeys.

We wear black when we go in mourning. The Chinese wear white, and they send out white mourning cards. Their visiting cards are a bright red. They put on light blue for half mourning. When the days of sorrow are ended they give a feast to their friends.

Officers in the Chinese army wear buttons on their caps instead of epaulets on their shoulders to indicate their rank. They begin their books at the back instead of the front, and in dating their letters they put the year first, then the month, and then the day.

They boil their bread instead of baking it. Pedlars go about the streets selling boiled biscuits. They eat eggs, but never serve them soft boiled. They pickle the eggs in lime; and the older such eggs are, the better they like them. They never drink cold water, and their wine is served boiling hot.

They do not wash their hands before dinner. After the meal a servant brings a hot, wet cloth, and the guests use it to rub off their hands and faces, passing it from one to the other. They eat from the table as we do. They use chop-sticks instead of knives and forks. The food is served in small porcelain bowls, the meats being cut into little cubes; and the tea is served in cups, with saucers on top.

Shoes are made principally of straw and of cloth. We black our shoes all over; but a Chinaman whitens his, and then only the sides of the soles. When a baby begins to walk it is given a pair of knit shoes with a cat's face on the toes, this being supposed to render it as sure-footed as the cat.—The Little Worker.

HOW THE BABIES ARE CARRIED.

The chocolate mammas of Queensland carry their little ones astride their necks.

The negroes of Cuba hold their babies on one hip, the child clinging by its knees as a rider holds on to a horse.

French babies are borne through the streets stretched on fine embroidered pillows, their lace frocks spread out to make all the display possible.

The Dyaks of Borneo carry the baby wrapped in the bark of a tree or in a curiously carved chair studded with ground shells, which is fastened to the mother's back.

The New Guinea baby has a novel method of being carried about. Its mother puts the naked little creature into a net, which is suspended by a band over her head and ears, in front of her.

Alaskan babies are rubbed with oil, tightly rolled in a skin or blanket padded with grass, and bound with deerskin thongs, which are undone but once a day when the grass is freshened. If the baby cries, he is held under water till he is still.

HYMN: A PRAYER FOR MISSION BANDS

(Air: "Stand Up for Jesus.")

Dear Saviour, bless the children
Who've gathered here to-day;
Oh, send the Holy Spirit,
And teach us how to pray.

Dear Lord, wilt thou not teach us
To keep thy great command,
And send the blessed gospel
Abroad through every land?

Oh, send the missionaries
With messages of love,
Of wonderful salvation
Brought to us from above.

Bless what we're bravely doing;
Oh, bless our gifts, though small.
Hear our prayer for Jesus' sake;
Send light and truth to all.

—Exchange