

NOTES FROM CHINA.

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If ever there develops a doubt in one's mind with regard to the value of missionary effort in the East, a visit to the medical missionary hospitals of Canton would be sufficient to dispel the thought. In Canton we are given a glimpse of the real old China, malodorous, dirty, congested and presenting objects of pity on every side. It is not unusual to pass from ten to twenty blind, many of them beggars, in half an hour's walk, occasionally one of these wretches can be seen in the centre of a main highway, which it is fortunate if it measures six feet across from shop to shop—down on all fours striking his head against the stone pavement uttering wails too weird for description, and the smells—even on the river boat approaching the city we had all desire for breakfast removed, and one of our party was so much affected by the combination of odours that his stomach rebelled, and he refused to go ashore. Where are our theories of sanitation, bacteria and toxins, in the presence of the conglomeration of abominations found here in this city of nearly two millions. Either Chinese bacteria are better behaved than our own, or these people are dosed to the saturation point with anti-toxins. However, the fact remains that the Chinese live and flourish amid surroundings that would drive a Canadian sanitary officer insane.

There are three medical teaching attempts being made in Canton. One the University under the direction of the Medical School of the Christian College, and supported by the Y.M.C.A. of the University of Pennsylvania. One for women, and the third managed by Dr. Todd formerly of the American Presbyterian Board. This school has a registration of two hundred students, several of whom are women. The sexes associate in the clinics, without any apparent sense of immodesty, the women of course always crowded to the rear. When we reflect that Dr. Todd is a busy man with a hospital of fifty beds and a large surgical practice, with little European help and but a few native assistants, without adequate chemical or physiological apparatus, few charts, no practical anatomy, scarcely ever a *post mortem* privilege, an idea may be formed of the superficial training that these students are getting. Yet even this is a vast advantage upon the native status, and better than the superstition and abominations characteristic of Chinese practice. An effort is made to cover this deficiency by laying special emphasis upon practical surgery, and as much regional anatomy as possible is taught in the operating room, the students frequently assisting in the operations. A most welcome gift to this institution would be a set