

are possessed of secrets that challenge the therapeutic and physiologic knowledge of the entire Occident. It is the universal belief of the Chinese—shared to no inconsiderable degree by foreigners, lay, clerical, and medical, entitled by long experience and residence to be deemed fair judges of Celestial character and characteristics—that these villains are able to perform a delicate operation, of the nature of a tenotomy, whereby the vocal cords are severed, and the victim forever rendered mute; also that the same result can be, and is oftentimes, obtained by the prolonged continuous administration of secret drugs—and it may here be remarked, *en passant*, the Celestials generally attribute to vegetable charcoal, thus exhibited, the power of paralyzing permanently the vocal apparatus, at the same time obtunding in greater or less degree auditory impressions. It is also held that kidnapping and mumping purveyors, by means of a compound unknown, but into which cinnabar, opium, and viper's entrails are supposed to enter largely, can produce any stage intermediate of idiocy and stupidity, along with the various degrees of aphasia (partial loss of speech) to total aphonia (dumbness), even more or less complete amnesia (loss of memory for words); that at will they, by means of drugs, induce partial or complete paralysis of any organ of locomotion, or function, or atrophy or hypertrophy (wasting or abnormal increase) of muscular tissues. Likewise they are accredited with the successful production of anæsthesia, both general and local, the latter, according to popular superstition, being resultant upon the application of an exudate artificially derived from the cuticle of live frogs and newts. It will be observed that the possibilities of hypnotism and hypnotic influence are entirely ignored, yet that such may play no inconsiderable rôle, or even be the chief factor in some of the nefarious procedures, is not at all unlikely, since many of the criminals

brought to book have offered in defence the assertion that their operations were altogether painless, and that even local insensibility can be made to include the deepest of the immediate tissues. Again, that Celestials possess some knowledge of hypnotic influence is evidenced by the ecstatic state peculiar to the ceremonial practices of the religion of Buddha, to be seen almost daily in any of the great temples or monasteries, and even in the thoroughfares of great cities.

If the wisacres of the Flowery Kingdom are possessed of any knowledge regarding anæsthesia, aside from narcotic inebriety, and especially of such phenomenal character as is claimed, it is certainly passing strange that the same is never invoked by professional foot-binders, whose province it is to cater to a decree of fashion that certain women shall be possessed of small clump feet; and this foot distortion entails suffering beggaring all attempts at description in its excruciating intensity, not alone for days and weeks, but for months and years; and yet here a possible explanation may be had in the fact that female humanity, particularly of tender years, possesses no sentimental or other sociological value in China, and but very little commercial.

Of all the procedures attributed to kidnappers in procuring deformities and monstrosities it is impossible to write; the subject for complete elucidation would require volumes rather than pages or columns, hence further illustration must be confined to the more prevalent or remarkable.

Deprivation of light, the voice having been destroyed as far as comprehensible speech is concerned, and all nourishment confined to definite and peculiar vegetable regimen, renders the child a great curiosity in Oriental eyes; they are deemed as phenomenal as albinos and other "freaks" are to Western peoples. A Ningpo bonze or monk, in the last century kidnapped a male child, subjecting him to tor-