

At the request of the Literature Committee of the Woman's Missionary Society, Dr. Bolton has written a synopsis of the history of this medical mission, which appears upon the catalogue of the Literature Department as No. IV. of "Our Work" series. Every member of our Leagues should read this pathetic story, so beautifully told by one who knows whereof he writes.

Human Sacrifices in Alaska.

"IN most heathen countries sickness and disease are attributed to witchery, and of course the natural inference is that if the witch be killed the disease will be cured."

The Chilcat Indians of Alaska are idolaters and also firm believers in the practice of witchcraft, and insist that when one of the tribe falls ill with any sickness whatever the sufferer has been bewitched by an enemy. For many years the practice of witch-doctoring by their native medicine-men has been sternly suppressed by the Territorial Governors of Alaska, as it always involved either a human sacrifice to appease the evil spirit or some other horrible rite to rid the bewitched of the malign influence. Witch-doctors accordingly grew scarce, but about two years ago word was brought to Oonalaska that a witch-doctor had appeared at the lower Chilcat village, and that in consequence several murders had been committed, and that mothers were sacrificing their children.

In one instance it was reported that an Indian, who was supposed to be suffering from the presence of a malign spirit, but who really had nothing worse than the chills and fever, had been placed in one of their salmon-curing houses and smoked, not only being smothered to death, but, in fact, thoroughly cured in the most complete sense of the word, as his body was preserved after the manner of smoked salmon. In another case a squaw, whose child was taken ill, hanged it to a totem-pole by the heels, head downward, until it died, doing so by the order of the witch-doctor. There were no less than a score of murders and sacrifices, all attributed to the work of the old wretch.

When the authorities learned of the old fellow's doings orders were given to capture him, and he was apprehended at Chilcat, just as he was making ready to smoke the witch out of another "red-skin." He was tried and condemned before the United States District Court for the Territory of Alaska, and ordered to be confined in the penitentiary at San Quentin, California.

The old man, who is supposed to be over seventy years of age, is below the ordinary Digger Indian in intelligence, and is stupid to an extreme degree. Where and how he obtained his wonderful power and influence over the Chilcats is a mystery.—*Harper's Weekly*.

Remedies Prescribed by Heathen Physicians.

DO you truly think the two hundred boiled spiders eaten by one sick Chinese girl or the serpent's eggs next prescribed could do her good? She grew steadily worse, till at last she went to the foreign hospital. "This has so many ingredients it will cure anything," was the remark of a Chinese physician to a friend of mine as he handed her a prescription, in which, among its twenty-five components, I was most struck by a centipede, a scorpion, a horned toad, and a beetle. Do you think a sign makes a real

doctor? Is not some knowledge of anatomy necessary? Is not surgical aid often indispensable? Would you like to be relieved of a pain by having a long needle thrust in opposite the aching part? One woman in China had one thrust into the interior of her ear to cure a headache. "Of course the tympanum was destroyed." Another patient lost his eye by this process of cure. Even little babies are stuck all over with red-hot needles, till not an inch of unpunctured skin remains. That old lady near Pekin who had bricks piled on her broken leg for six months, to cure it and keep down the swelling, was finally persuaded to seek the American Board hospital, where she not only learned no evil, but at last "drank of the heavenly spring."

Native practitioners in Siam are as deficient in knowledge as in China. The Siamese think the human body composed of elements divided into two classes—the visible and the invisible. The bones, flesh, blood, etc., belong to the former, the wind and fire to the latter. The external elements acting on the bodily elements cause health and disease, as dropsy, caused by too much water being absorbed into the body during the wet season. Spirits have great power. To cure lockjaw, the prescription runs: Portions of the jaws of a wild hog, a tame hog, and a goat; of a goose-bone, peacock-bone, tail of a fish, and head of a venomous snake.

Do You Know

THAT New York city contains over three thousand physicians to attend to its one and a half million of people?

That there is one medical missionary to three millions, or twice the population of New York in heathen lands?

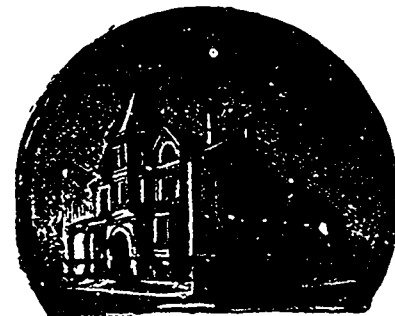
That these suffering millions are made, like yourself, of the same Father, and have nerves so they can feel?

That their doctors generally increase their sufferings by their ignorance of anatomy, disease, and its cure?

That in Africa the doctors live by their wits: their chief wisdom and skill being seen in their ability to deceive?

That the witch doctor's business is not to cure disease, but to find out who bewitched the sick one?

That when one such is found out he is made to drink poison prepared by the doctor who discovered him?



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