

Dr. Hamilton Wright, after thanking the Rt. Hon. Chief Commissioner for Great Britain for the complimentary reference to himself, pointed out that there was on the Chinese Delegation a medical expert, trained in the West, who, speaking from a scientific point of view, was quite competent to judge on the subject under discussion. There were, therefore, three physicians in the Commission quite capable of undertaking an investigation.

Mr T'ang Kuo-an begged permission to reply to a few of the remarks made by the Rt. Hon. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith. He stated that in the Regulations which China issued two years ago for the suppression of the Opium habit, one of the questions dealt with was "Anti-Opium Medicines". Since that time China had been taking steps to control the sale of such medicines in the interior. For instance, at Chengtu, the capital of Szechwan, no Opium medicines could be sold except by authority of the police, and in other places also the police were endeavouring to restrict the sale of Opium medicines. But it was a deplorable fact that the bulk of these remedies were manufactured in, and found their way into the interior from, the Treaty Ports; China was consequently quite powerless to prevent the spread of these nostrums without the co-operation of the Treaty Powers. That was one of the reasons which led him to draw up the resolution now under consideration. Another point he wished to bring to the attention of the Delegates. Supposing there were not, in the opinion of the British Delegation, a sufficient number of men on the Commission competent to deal with this question, they were not debarred, as far as he knew, by anything in the constitution or in the rules of the Commission from seeking advice and opinion from experts outside.

Dr Rössler supported Mr T'ang's resolution. He said:-

"According to the correspondence exchanged between the Governments of the United States of America and the powers interested in the Opium question this Commission is expected to make a general and impartial investigation of the scientific and material conditions of the Opium trade and the Opium habit. I am afraid the report which we are going to submit to our Governments would be incomplete were the medical aspect of the Opium question omitted.

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