

come to us. It is, however, often difficult to make a correct diagnosis, as the history given by the patient is very unreliable, and it is impossible to get out of him what one wants. Then, too, unless he be an in-patient, the doctor can never be certain that the medicine has been taken as directed. None may have been taken, or the whole in one dose, or it may have been alternated with any amount of native nostrums. One thing I must mention is the large number of patients, more often women than men, perhaps, who date the beginning of their disease to when they *shenged chi*, or had a very violent outburst of temper. It may not be all imagination, though sometimes it seems utterly impossible to associate the disease with the supposed cause. Still, I dare say, aneurism, or heart disease may be caused by such outbursts of fury as are here very common and very violent. Most of the diseases met with in Canadian hospitals are found in China. Venereal diseases, except in the coast cities and along the main lines of travel, are not prevalent. Hard drinking is not the vice here that it is in Western lands, but its place is taken by the opium habit. I shall here take no part in the bitter controversy regarding the opium trade, but the excessive use of the drug is spreading very rapidly. In Honan Province three or four-tenths of the people are said to be opium users, and in Shansi Province as many as seven-tenths. Most institutions, commercial as well as missionary, refuse to employ a man addicted to the opium habit, regarding him as a person unfit to be trusted.

Skin diseases are very common, as we should expect to find among a people not overly fond of bathing. One of the commonest diseases is smallpox, and there is some truth in the Chinese saying that adults do not take it, for here almost every one has it in childhood. Scabies is not quite, but almost, universal. Malaria epidemics occur as regularly as the wet seasons, and in low-lying places are constant, while dysentery is very prevalent every autumn. Were a doctor in China confined to the use of three drugs, he would do well to load up with quinine, sulphur and santonin, and if a fourth were allowed him, he should take castor oil. Every few years, as this past year, an outbreak of cholera carries off great numbers of the people. Famine fever is often epidemic in tracts of the country flooded by the rivers that have burst their banks.

*Surgical Cases.*—The work of the surgeon in China is not altogether determined by the nature of the cases that are presented for treatment. Where little can be done in the way of antisepsis, of course, such work as abdominal surgery is impossible, and, at least, not advisable. A hospital such as you have in Canada would by its very cleanliness frighten away most patients, who would prefer to go on suffering rather than submit to the baths, dietry, clean sheets, soft beds, etc. The patient here comes in, is operated on in, sleeps in, goes away in the same suit of clothes, the only suit he