

up to the highest tariff of half-a-dollar, liquor (tea) included.

A Chinese drug-shop has counter, shelves and drawers like any other, but there the resemblance ceases. The correct thing to do when you enter is to drink a cup of strong, excellent tea, without milk or sugar, from a steaming urn that stands as free to all comers as a public drinking fountain. There seems to be a great variety in their drugs, but they are nearly all vegetable preparations. While the mineral kingdom affords few contributions to their pharmacopœia, it is enriched from the animal world by such choice drugs as dried locusts, or, in plainer language, dead grasshoppers. Their doses are large and powerful, and are said to give relief in simple cases. I procured a phial of their headache mixture that was recommended to me, and propose to try its efficacy upon the first of my friends whose faith is strong and whose head is splitting.

In China various repressive measures have from time to time been attempted to check the practice of opium smoking. The United States and British Columbia, being free countries, furnish John with an opportunity to indulge his cherished vice, only limited by his capacity to enjoy, and his coin to pay for it. In Victoria, B. C., as well as in San Francisco, I visited extensive opium dens. They are all alike in their main features. Oriental luxury you do not find, but squalor and an entire absence of any attempt at elegance. A long dark narrow passage leads you to the smoking-room, which may be any length, though it seldom exceeds ten or twelve feet in width. On each side are shelves, generally two tiers, extending out from the wall four or five feet, leaving a narrow aisle along the middle of the room. To lie upon these shelves, with their heads towards the wall, and leaning upon their elbows, or upon a hard cushion, the "mild-eyed, melancholy" opium smokers came. Between every pair of them a lighted lamp was placed upon the shelf, with a pipe and a sufficient allowance

of opium. It may be a more attractive occupation

"In the hollow lotos-land to live and lie reclined
On the hills like gods together, careless of mankind ;"

yet these Celestial sybarites reposed as voluptuously upon the hard boards as if they were beds of asphodel. I am also prepared to believe that, like the lotos-eaters, they can "live" reclined, as I am already abundantly satisfied that they can "lie" in that or any other position. When the pen of a De Quincey could scarcely describe the ecstatic visions he beheld after swallowing opium, who could picture or imagine John's sensations when he has inhaled the same poison juice of poppies! From our education and the experience of our civilization, we cannot even conjecture "in that sleep what dreams may come." The reply to an enquiry addressed upon this interesting subject to the Chinese proprietor of a San Franciscoden would not warrant the conclusion that they were Swinburne's "doubtful dreams of dreams." On the contrary their visions seem to have a practical drift. After having taken several turns at the pipe, one fellow lay back, and, with eyes shut and a placid smile playing on his lips, murmured several sentences. I felt that my time had come to penetrate the mysteries of dreamland, and eagerly asked the proprietor what the dreamer was talking about, and if he "felt good." Promptly my question was answered in the choicest pigeon English: "O yes! him feel pelly coot, all-ee-same; him talkee him own fine low blick houses; opium pelly coot for Chinaman, all-ee-same." And this was his elysium—thinking he owned a row of brick mansions!

The market value of opium being about eighteen gold dollars per ounce places excessive indulgence in it above the reach of the poorest class. It is always used without waste, and in small quantities. The opium pipe is a bamboo stem about the size of an ordinary flute. The bowl is attached at about two-thirds of the length from the