

CHINESE PHYSICIANS.

One of the Chinese servants of the American consul at Amoy fell sick with a severe attack of rheumatism. He bore the pain bravely for three days, refusing all "foreign devil medicine," and on the fourth sent for a native physician. The latter duly arrived and began preparations for treatment of the malady, which he announced to be due to the presence of a "darting snake" in the sufferer's body. Incense sticks were lighted and placed just outside the door and also in the room. A pack of fire-crackers were set off, and a talismanic paper pasted to the wall. This was done to drive away evil spirits and attract good ones. Next the doctor wrote a lot of characters on a thick piece of paper with a vermilion pencil, and set fire to it. It burned into a black ash, which was broken into a cup of water and drunk by the patient. A great bowl of herb tea was made, of which a cup an hour was the allotted dose. The son of Aesculapius next bared the body of the sufferer and drove deep into it, at nine points, a long needle moistened with such skill in avoiding large blood vessels that the hemorrhage was insignificant. He then covered each acupuncture with a brownish paste, and this in turn with a piece of dark paper. He then collected his fee, 50 cents, and left. The patient soon fell asleep, and the next day was better. He kept in his bunk two more days, laughing, chatting, smoking cigarettes, and once or twice using the opium pipe, and then reported as being well. He left the paste and paper in place until they fell off. The skin was smooth and the scar hardly perceptible. He took his recovery as a matter of course, his only comment being that the darting snake was thoroughly dead.

THE VALUE OF SALT.

Severe pains in the bowels and stomach are often speedily relieved by the application of a bag of hot salt. A weak solution of salt and water is recommended by good physicians as a remedy for imperfect digestion, and for a cold in the head it is a complete cure snuffed up from the hollow of the hand. We have known severe chronic cases of catarrh entirely cured by persistent use of this simple remedy every night and morning for several months, when the best efforts of the best physicians failed to do any good. It should be used milk-warm. A good handful of rock salt added to the bath is the next-best thing

after an "ocean dip," and a gargle of a weak solution is a good and ever-ready remedy for a sore throat. As a dentifrice salt and water is very cleansing and also hardens the gums. It will also prevent the hair from falling out. When broiling steak throw a little salt on the coals and the blaze from the dripping fat will not annoy. A little in starch, boiled or raw, will prevent the irons from sticking. If the irons are rough put a little salt on a thick brown paper, lay a piece of thin muslin over it, and rub the iron over it till perfectly smooth. Ink stains are entirely removed by the immediate application of dry salt before the ink has dried. When the salt becomes discolored by absorbing the ink, brush it off and apply more; wet slightly. Continue this till the ink is all removed. If new calicoes are allowed to lie in strong salt water for an hour before the first washing the colors are less likely to fade. Damp salt will remove the discoloration of cups and saucers caused by tea and careless washing. A teaspoonful of salt in each kerosene lamp makes the oil give a much clearer, better light.—*Exchange*.

A TRYING POSITION.

Old Mrs. M—, who was seriously ill, found herself to be in a trying position, which she defined to a friend in these words:

"You see, my daughter Harriet is married to one o' these homey-path doctors, and my daughter Kate to an ally-path. If I call in the homey-path, my ally-path son-in-law an his wife git mad, an if I call in my ally-path son-in-law my homey-path son-in-law an his wife git mad, an if I go ahead an git well without either o' 'em then they'll both be mad, so I don't see but I'd bet-ter die outright.—*Detroit Free Press*.

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