

Chinese doctor, with its numerous plasters stuck all over it, bears testimony to the number and importance of the patients who had come sick, and bruised, and plastered, but who had departed leaving their plasters behind them as grateful tokens of the benefits received. Books on medicine deal largely with two things, viz., the breath and the blood, for if either of these ceases to work properly there is serious trouble. Internally there are five organs, the heart—located in the gastric region—liver, spleen, lungs, and kidneys, all of which are more or less subject to disease.

Native Medical Practice.—The pulse is an important factor in diagnosis. Three fingers are placed on each wrist, as each contains three pulses, which indicate the condition of the corresponding internal organ. Patients are frequently forbidden to eat a certain kind of vegetable or other article of food, and exhausting operations, such as shaving and bathing, are prohibited during convalescence. The study of anatomy is unknown, and the dissection of a human body is a thing unheard of. The surgeon who jabs his needle into any part of the body to let out the pain is blissful in his ignorance. The pain is in, and he makes a hole to let it out. The application of clean water to a wound is greatly feared. Little or no real surgery is attempted, and in case of an accident the regular dressing is the wadding cotton from some garment too old and dirty to be of further use. In midwifery, the suffering imposed on Chinese women is terrible. Brute force and ignorance appear to be the only requisites of the attendants. Among specific cures are the following: For the weakness of old age, tiger's bones, powdered;¹ for asthma, licorice root; for fever, rhubarb, bamboo-leaves, alum, lamp-wick, or bleeding; for syphilis, mercury or arsenic. Scorpions are an antidote for poison; while for opium poison, the patient is given wood-varnish, or human ordure, and those failing, the last resort is the blood of a white duck. Among the more ignorant, devil-drivers or exorcists do a thriving business. Lately, while treating a railway engineer (British) for typhoid, some of the servants found a small snake, and immediately fell down to worship it, and pray for the sick man. The creature was then reverently carried to the temple and deposited there as a god.² My patient made a good recovery, and I imagine the Chinese servants will give most of the credit to the reptile.

Medical Cases.—A nation like China, with the science of medicine at such a stage as I have described, presents a most interesting field to the medical missionary. I say missionary, for except in the coast cities a foreigner would scarcely be able to make a living out of patients who support themselves on from two to five cents a day. In one of our Honan hospitals³ there were last year over 28,000 different treatments, and a correspondingly large number of operations. Perhaps the least satisfactory part of the work is the medical, though there are many most interesting cases