

Crime.

little or no drainage in Chinatown. In police matters we have a great trouble in tracing crime amongst themselves, through their reluctance in giving evidence and the difficulty in understanding them, and then their evidence cannot be relied upon. I think a white interpreter here would facilitate us in carrying out the law amongst them. They are a temperate people, but drink a considerable quantity of Chinese liquor in their own dwellings. I have only known two or three cases of drunkenness on the streets. Their crimes are almost exclusively larceny. The first difficulty is, we have no knowledge of their language and customs; and, secondly, there is a positive reluctance to give any evidence at all. There appears to be an influence brought to bear on them; every Chinaman seems to belong to two or three secret societies. The higher class have a society of their own, of which we see little work of this here. The same difficulty is confined to the higher classes in finding it out. Murder is the chief crime amongst these.

Murders.

Q. How many murders have there been during the last four years?—A. About three or four murders; but only one conviction of manslaughter.

Prostitutes.

This murder on Fisguard street was amongst the merchants. There are upwards of one hundred women here. Their characters are very low, almost all prostitutes. White people get into trouble with them, men having been robbed in their houses. White men—chiefly young lads of nineteen and twenty years of age—frequent these houses. I have frequently driven them away. The women do not drink, but all smoke opium and tobacco. They are as a rule very particular and neat in their dress. They do not introduce venereal diseases amongst the population, any more than white prostitutes. I cannot say whether they have leprosy cases amongst them. I know only of one case, the man being in prison.

Disease.

Leprosy.

Two Chinese doctors have seen him and said it was a bad case, though Dr. Helmcken said it was not leprosy. This man was in a solitary cell at the time, and was discharged; but has since been confined for vagrancy. While in gaol he was very much emaciated; his skin seemed to be breaking out in sores, and his feet turned black. I do not know of any white doctors visiting other cases such as this, only Chinese doctors, and they use the term leprosy in defining the disease. I do not know what leprosy is exactly. The chief objections to Chinese is on account of the impossibility to trace crime amongst them, their unclean premises and opium-smoking. I have no faith in their women, and have been told that it is only the lower class who are allowed to leave China. I believe the Chinese government do not allow them to leave; but they are smuggled away by these old Chinese women. Some of the women here are married; but they are usually kept in their houses. I have accompanied Mr. Bull, who collecting the municipal road-tax, and great difficulty was experienced in collecting it, except where the owner is known, when you frequently seize their goods in order to collect this tax. Opium-smoking is chiefly carried on in their own dens, and is an intoxicant.

Prostitution.

Evade taxes.

Mr. DAVIE suggested that Sergeant Flewin be asked, as to their condition when brought to the gaol?

Prisoners covered with vermin.

Sergeant FLEWIN: Nine cases out of ten, when brought to prison, the head and queues are covered with vermin. In January last eleven or twelve cases were brought to gaol, and the majority of these had vermin. The Indians, as a rule, are very dirty; out of eleven or twelve of these state of filth and vermin would be about the same, especially among the Chinooks. The white people of the same class are also just as bad, that