

—When any of *our* friends are sick or injured, when one is born lame or blind, when we pass in the street a person deformed in any way, our hearts are filled with pity for them, and we try at once to think if there is anything that we can do to make their lot in life less hard. But in China the case is different. Mr. Smith tells us, in his "Chinese Characteristics," that there seems to be no sympathy bestowed upon such unfortunates. Tho they may not be treated with absolute cruelty, they are avoided and often twitted with their deformity, and are always looked upon as being punished for some sin. It is quite the proper thing for people in the street to stop and sneer at them, pointing out to others their maimed limb or twisted back, calling them names, etc.

—Dr. Griffith John, of Hankow, who played a prominent part a few years ago in disclosing the true origin of the anti-foreign placards disseminated in the Yangtse valley, has recently published in China an interesting statement in regard to Chou Han. This individual was proved by Dr. John to be the author of many of the violent and obscene attacks on foreigners and on the Christian religion which incited the mob to outrages on Europeans. The foreign ministers in Peking demanded his arrest and trial, and after a long interval the Chinese authorities reported that he was insane, and he was accordingly released. Dr. John now reports that two native Christians, who went into Hunan preaching and selling books, entered Changsha, and there got into communication with Teng, who was one of the chief printers and publishers of Chou Han's writings. Teng stated to his visitors that Chou Han had greatly changed of late, that he was now studying Christian books, and had renounced Spiritualism and his former anti-foreign associates. He would like to visit Hankow, and there inquire of the missionaries concerning Christianity, but was afraid that he

would be seized for his past misdeeds. Dr. John has written inviting both Chou Han and Teng to visit Hankow and study Christianity for themselves. —*The Christian*.

—The city of Peking contains the oldest university in the world. It is called the Kwotzekien, or Schools for the Sons of the Empire. The duties of the faculty are somewhat difficult, for in addition to the instruction of the scholars, they have to admonish the Emperor of that which is just and good, to reprove him for his faults, and have the hereditary privilege of schooling the members of his family in the sciences and arts. A granite register, consisting of stone columns, 320 in number, contains the names of 60,000 graduates of the highest degree. These inscribed columns constitute the university roll of honor, and the record goes back more than 600 years.

—Our mission in Peking is benefiting from this new and wonderful system of teaching reading invented by the Rev. W. H. Murray. This missionary has for some years worked among the blind of the Chinese capital, altho the war last year brought everything to a standstill. This system appears to be equally suited to blind and sighted Chinese. It is so simple that the most ignorant and dull men and women learn to read and write fluently in periods of from one to three months. Farm women, who had gone into Peking for the winter, and who had joined our mission there, have returned to their own homes, after two or three months, rejoicing in being able to write as fluently as their clever countrymen can do after years of hard study. The 408 sounds of Mandarin Chinese are represented by numerals, and the system is therefore called numeral type.—*L. M. S. Chronicle*.

Japan.—A monthly magazine in the English language, called *The Far East*, for Japanese readers, has just been started in Japan. This willingness to adopt and be influenced by our modes