

I have never seen a crutch used, or a sling for the arm or breast; indeed, a crutch made at my suggestion for one of the Prince's officers, who had an ankylosed knee-joint from gunshot wound, has been regarded as a miracle of skill and ingenuity. The medical men attached to the Japanese Embassy to the United States practised most freely upon the credulity of members of the profession there, in their account of hospitals at Yaddo, and of surgical operations performed in Japan. I need scarcely say that all these accounts were gratuitous falsehoods, and that there is not such a thing as a native hospital existing in Japan. Venesection is employed to a great extent, and it is a common practice for individuals to be bled at regular periods, much the same as with ourselves some fifty or sixty years ago. The moxa is also used as a counter-irritant on any and every occasion. It is even employed for the relief of a slight colic, and there are very few Japanese whose bodies are not well scarred by this barbarous application. Children of a tender age are frequently thrown into convulsions by the pain of the moxa, and I am cognizant of one instance in which it was freely applied to the soles of the feet of a poor young girl, suffering from slight aberration of mind, occasioned by uterine disorder. In this case it was employed to prevent the patient from walking, and thus save an attendant.

In addition to what might be called the "regular faculty," and, in some measure, auxiliary to them, there exist two distinct classes of practitioners who gain a livelihood through the aches and pains of the community. These are the shampooers and the acupuncturists, although the latter operation is frequently performed by physicians possessing the requisite knack or tack for its successful accomplishment. Shampooing, as employed in Japan, is not exactly the vigorous backbone manipulation of the Turks at the mamman, and which makes one imagine that every joint in the body must have been dislocated. It is usually performed after a warm bath, the subject lying extended upon mats, while the operator kneels at his side. The affair consists in sundry blows with the knuckles or tips of the fingers, delivered with great rapidity, as also in kneading, picking, or rubbing, and is either general, commencing at the head and working towards the feet, or confined to some part that is to be relieved from pain. Many shampooers are exceedingly dextrous, and the sensation is so agreeable and sedative as to make it enjoyed even by foreigners. The class of people engaged in this business are usually wholly or partially blind, going about the streets feeling their way with a long staff, and holding in the mouth a kind of double whistle, whose sound is to me peculiarly plaintive when heard breaking the silence of a cold winter night. The occupation seems to carry with it a certain amount of respect, and I have been informed that there are "Amas," as these people are called, who are of high rank, belonging, perhaps to the "Kuge," or ancient nobility of Meaco, who have had the misfortune to lose their sight.

Acupuncture is very frequently practised, especially in rheumatic affections and sciatica; it is done by means of very long needles of gold or silver, and of extreme tenuity. These are slowly introduced by a rotatory motion, four, five, or more being sometimes inserted at one sitting. The operation is nearly or quite painless, as I can tes-

tify from personal experience, and is performed with great dexterity. Of its effects I need say nothing, as among ourselves it was many years ago practised quite extensively, but it is now, I believe, confined to cases of sciatica, or used in connection with electricity.

It might not be amiss, in the course of these remarks, to add a few words concerning a kindred profession to our own. I refer to Dentistry. This trade, for such it may be more fitly considered in Japan, is carried on by a very low class of people, usually peripatetic in their habits, and who carry with them a box covered with brass ornaments, by which their occupation is recognized. Now, the extraction of a tooth by one of these gentry is regarded by the Japanese as a capital operation, and not without reason, if the information given me be reliable, that death (from tetanus, I presume) is not unfrequently the result. The tooth is extracted by the operators' fingers, but not until it has been well loosened by means of a stick and a mallet vigorously wielded. The operation is seldom performed, but I saw some teeth in the possession of one of these charlatans that had large portions of the alveolar process attached. In the face of these facts it can scarcely be credited that artificial teeth, sustained by atmospheric pressure, have been in use from time immemorial. These teeth are carved out of sea-horse ivory, the molars being plentifully studded with little brass bosses, and the whole strongly mounted upon a base cut from the hard shell of a species of gourd, and carved to conform to the irregularities of the gums and palate. I have several sets of these teeth in my possession; they are not expensive, the very best, a complete upper set, costing about five boes, or about one dollar and sixty cents. Colossal fortunes are not accumulated from dentistry in Japan, as may be inferred from the foregoing.

The fondness of the Japanese for taking medicine is almost incredible. They have the most unlimited faith in its powers of healing, especially if it be of the "takai" or dear variety. This love of medicine amounts almost to a mania with some, and may account for the great number of physicians, whose name is *kyaku*. A few years ago a rather intelligent man called at my office in Yokohama, with some trifling ailment, which I informed him would pass off in a couple of days and give him no further trouble. He then asked me if no medicine was to be given him. "None," was the answer; "your case does not require it." "Well," said he, looking around at the furnished shelves of the dispensary, "this is really too bad. I see here medicines of all kinds, blue, white, yellow, and red, many, no doubt, dear medicines, for which I would gladly pay, and now I am truly afflicted at having to leave without getting any, as I may never again have a chance to take foreign medicines."

Whatever the disease a Japanese is suffering from, or however long its duration, no attention to washing or cleanliness must be paid during its continuance, and the strictest starvation diet is enjoined. There ensues from this a condition of filthiness and apathy which renders visits to the poor invalid anything but an agreeable office, especially in cases where a physical examination is demanded.

The supporters of a purely vegetable diet will scarcely derive much comfort from the fact that