

struggle to the smile of the sun. This bank of verdure extends to the edge of the pebbly beach, where at high tide the waters of the Pacific kiss and caress the feet of the forest monarchs, whose verdant crowns stand out in bold relief against the milder tints of sea and sky. Although the gem of the East Coast Isar is, the shores of D'Arcy Island are rarely pressed by the feet of the white man, and few indeed are the prows which grate upon its beach. Travellers in these waters dread the storm which forces them upon its coast even for a night, and the superstitious Siwash trolling for salmon or paddling to the city for his season's supply, pulls with a swifter oar as he discerns ahead the outline of her shores. For hidden away yonder in their little cabins under the grateful shade of the fir with their hot blood burning out their life, the victims of this plague are slowly dying with their faces to the rising sun.

There are certain conditions of life which are habitually associated with races and epochs whose acquaintance are made through the record of the historian. The marvellous advances which have marked the development of medical and hygienic science have accomplished much in the elimination of some of these loathsome diseases which, begotten of filth and squallor and nurtured by the same repulsive parents, rendered the social life of the sixteenth century one that even to this day we contemplate with feelings akin to disgust.

The sharp servillance which among those of Saxon speech is exercised over the public health, especially in the larger centres of population, has produced sanitary conditions which, though far from being perfect, are a reasonable safeguard against the more malignant types of disease. This comparative immunity from the more distressing and unsightly maladies has generated a certain degree of ignorance among the laity of many of those disorders which still prevail in some corners of the world, and which continue to baffle the skill of Occidental science.

The knowledge of the vast majority of those who speak the language of Shakespeare concerning the scourge of leprosy is confined to that obtained in the biblical account of the cleansing of Naaman the Syrian, and the late miracles described in the pages of the New Testament, some certainly do know that to-day it is a common disease in the Oriental lands, particularly in the southern latitudes, in China, Japan, India Hawaii and the Sandwich Islands. But few indeed of the intelligent easterners are aware that at the present time on the Pacific Coast of the North American Continent the health and sanitary authorities of the larger cities are fighting over again the battle which was waged in older lands when the disease was epidemic in those climes. This is one of the penalties which we are paying for empire, for, Mr. Rudyard Kipling to the contrary notwithstanding, blood is not the sole and only price of Admiralty.

The thirst for empire of the British people, and the equally potent passion of the American Commonwealth for commercial conquest have led both to seek trade privileges in the kingdom of China and the Islands of Japan. Trade concessions from these countries have rendered necessary reciprocal privileges on the part of the Saxon nation, and the consequence has been an enormous influx of eastern population the price of our unrestricted trade in the Orient.

The introduction of this plague to the Pacific Coast of British Columbia, was due to the immigration of the Mongolian races to her shores. Filthy as are the lives of many of the warlike Indians who dwell along the inlets and river mouths of the coast of that province, the tribes have hitherto escaped from any such visitation as leprosy. But with the advent of the