

each side of the body is supplied with a corresponding side of the heart, independently of the other. The science of diagnosis is, of course, but little known; and disease, when recognized, is treated entirely by name, and according to certain formulas laid down in the books; for as they are profoundly ignorant of the nature of internal lesions, should the disease prove obstinate, they continue to change their remedies until the patience or life of the patient is exhausted. Very many affections are supposed to proceed from the presence of various living organisms and worms infesting the economy, and going under the general name of "mushi." I have seen drawing purporting to represent these terrible creatures, and certainly, were any such existing, should deem them fully capable of producing all the mischief ascribed to them.

The only treatises upon pathology that have come under my notice were certain illustrated works upon tumours, and in these it was evident from the illustrations that the authors had drawn largely upon their imaginations. Most of the medicines employed are of Chinese origin, though of late years many foreign remedies have been introduced, and are largely employed, especially by the physicians in such cities as Osaka and Yokohama. The forms in which remedies are exhibited are bulky powders, or decoctions of certain vegetables, and of most forbidding appearance and taste. Musk is universally and largely employed, and, among foreign medicines, iodide of potassium, quinia, phosphoric acid, Hoffman's anodyne, aqua laura cerasi, and extract of hyoseyamus, are very extensively consumed. Most of this medicine is imported from Holland, and from samples that have fallen under my observation, I should consider their principal merit to consist in the low price at which they are sold. Iodide of potassium has proved a great boon to the Japanese, in relieving the pains of tertiary syphilis, a disease of very frequent occurrence in this country, and in the treatment of which mercury is employed so largely and indiscriminately as to be productive of the most disastrous consequences.

Among the people generally but two kinds of medicine are recognized, the *deu* and the *cheu*. Thus, you will be gravely informed that A. died; but then he was poor, and could afford only cheap medicine; while B.'s case, which terminated similarly, is a matter of surprise, since he was supplied with the dearest medicines that could be obtained.

The only attempt at prophylaxis practiced by the Japanese, that I am aware of, is in vaccination, which was introduced by the Dutch some thirty-five years ago, and is now pretty generally, but unfortunately not universally practised. It is much to be regretted that this measure is not rendered legally obligatory upon the people, as in no other country does smallpox commit more frightful ravages than in Japan; and the number of cases of complete or partial loss of sight from this cause is enormous. No care whatever is taken to prevent its spread by isolation of the patient, but infants suffering from the disease are carried about by the mothers as though affected by a slight cutturi. Hygiene, the sister of prophylaxis, is indeed a sealed book to the Japanese, and its laws are so completely and invariably set aside as to make it appear a matter of calculation. There is no drain-

age or sewerage ever attempted; houses are built directly upon the ground, cellars being unknown, while the lowest and dampest places are usually selected for their location, where stenches abound that would defy even Cokridge in their analysis. Much cutaneous disease is propagated by the barbers and the public baths. Hard, unripe fruit, too, so universally consumed, is productive of an infinite amount of intestinal disorder.

As regards Obstetrics, the practice is, to a great extent, in the hands of midwives, although version, instrumental delivery, and cephalotomy, are employed by medical practitioners. The use of the forceps is unknown, but, while penning this article, a book has fallen into my hands, upon the subject of delivery by means of a cord whose extremities pass through two perforations in the end of a whalebone blade, which enables the operator to carry the noose to the desired point, where it is slipped by the fingers around the presenting part. A net is also used in connection with this instrument in head presentations, apparently to prevent the noose from slipping too far over. The illustrations in this book are profuse, but not calculated to elicit admiration, either from an artistic or practical point of view, as the uterus was represented as an enormous chamber, and the vulva lay in the transverse axis of the body. Even with the aid afforded by the fillet referred to, some deliveries must prove excessively difficult, as one plate represents the operator with his feet braced against the patient's buttocks, while the fillet passed about the neck of the child is firmly grasped in both hands, and such traction exerted as makes it pretty certain that "something must come." Cephlotomy is performed by a knife, whose blade is wrapped for to a distance from the hilt, to protect the mother. The infant, upon birth, is tightly bandaged about the chest and abdomen, and not allowed to nurse for two or three days, some laxative draught being freely administered meanwhile, in lieu of food!

Of Operative Surgery the Japanese are most profoundly ignorant; they possess but few instruments, and those of very rude construction, but had they the whole modern "armamentarium," the want of anatomical knowledge would prevent them from being of much use. Amputation would, I think, sometimes be performed, if permitted by the patient or his friends, but so prejudiced are the people against it that foreign surgeons have frequently urged its necessity in vain. In cases of fracture, no apparatus whatever for retention is employed, nor any attempt made at reduction, leeches and plaster alone being used to reduce the tumefaction and mitigate pain. In fact, the unaided powers of Nature are relied upon in these cases, and, I must confess, with most unsatisfactory results. I was requested to treat a man, a short time ago, with a simple fracture of the femur, and, although extension by weights was employed, which gave him but little inconvenience, on the thirtieth day he removed the whole apparatus, declaring the cure to be too slow, and expressing surprise at not being at once relieved by the use of foreign internal remedies. The Japanese display either a great want of ingenuity or humanity in having no appliances for the relief of deformities or disabilities. Tenotomy is not practised, or any attempt made, by difference in the height of their cloths, to relieve the inconvenience produced by shortening of a limb.