

ARTHUR B. STOUT, physician, a member of the State Board of Health, and a resident of the state since 1849, sworn and examined :

Up to within the last six years I have resided in close proximity to the Chinese—in the midst of their quarter. I was among the last to leave.

Chinese men of small stature not muscular, but the muscle they have is very vigorous.

Light weight men capable of great industry.

Their health better than that of like classes of whites because of the frugality of their lives.

Very few fires which have originated in the Chinese quarter.

Has known of no pestilence.

They eat to live, and are clean, and use much water.

Death rate less among Chinese.

Small-pox not even half due to China or Chinamen.

Leprosy—the cry about this is a farce.

Hospitals

As to the physical condition of the Chinese they are men of small stature and not muscular, but the muscle that they have is very virgorous. They are witty, quick, and strong for their development. They are what we would call light-weight men, and as such are capable of great industry and have a capacity for labor which is remarkable. Their health, as a general thing, among similar classes in similar conditions, is better than that of the whites, because the frugality of their lives exposes them less to diseases than parties who are subjected to various excesses.

Previous to the time of my leaving the Chinese quarter, with the exception of the general conflagration in 1849, and a small portion that was destroyed on Stockton street, there have been no fires of any consequence. There have been very few fires that originated in the Chinese quarter.

During my residence among them I have not known of any disease, any pestilence, originating and spreading there, although they live in their quarters very closely sometimes.

They eat to live and they do not live to eat. They are clean in their habits, and they drink no whiskey. I have never seen a drunken Chinaman in my life. As mechanics or as workmen they keep themselves very clean ; using a great deal more water for ablutions than for cooking purposes. The women are generally cleaner than the same kind of women of other localities and of other races.

The death-rate is greater among the whites than among the Chinese.

As to epidemics, the small-pox has been among them, as it has been among others, but, ratio of population allowed, there has been less among them than with the whites. The true source of small-pox is threefold. One source is from California, where it has prevailed to a very great extent, and has swept northward, going through San Francisco and other portions of the state. A small ratio, and least of all, has come from China ; and small-pox prevailed to a very serious extent long before any Chinamen came here. In the very early years I recollect sending vaccine to Washington Territory, to the Indian agent there, to vaccinate a tribe of Indians about being destroyed by small-pox. It is engendered here ; it arrives from southern California : and last and least it has come with vessels from China.

The hue and cry made about leprosy is a farce. It is a disease of a past epoch, which can never return again, owing to the different changes of civilization and of life that have occurred. I consider it a curable disease, and I have no idea of its contagiousness by quick contagion. If you were to sleep with a man for six months or a year, be in close contact, get the scurf from the skin upon you, and breathe his breath for a long time, very likely then you might catch the leprosy ; but it is one of those chronic diseases which, although in that way contagious, need excite no fear ; and it is not near as horrible as other diseases of the skin that we have, such as psoriasis and phthosis.

Their mode of living being different, it makes their hospitals appear very different from ours. They have no beds ; they lay the sick on mats on the floor, which are kept clean. In some cases the mats are not changed, and they are liable to gross negligence. The European hospitals, only a few years ago, were just as much places of carelessness and reckless inhumanity as are theirs. The Chinese have a system of medicine of