

DINING OUT IN CHINA.

A FOREIGNER'S ENTERTAINMENT AT A CHINESE RESTAURANT.

The feast an indiscriminate mixture of Sweet, Sour and Salt Dishes, Hot Wine, Tobacco and Opium, With a Game Thrown In.

During the quarter of an hour before dinner the guests (only male, of course) sit or stroll about, eating cakes—a favorite being a sort of hot fruit puff (which each sips for himself)—and sipping tea. Melon seeds and salted almonds are also in demand for desultory nibbling.

When our number is complete, a tremendous encounter of good manners ensues. Though the question of precedence is of course all out and dried beforehand, each man must be polite enough to simulate an irrevocable resolve not to accept any but the lowest place until the host's "Friend, go up higher," prompts him.

The table, as mentioned, is ready laid with an imposing show; a regulation number of regulation dishes, marshaled in regulation order: quaint porcelain stands filled with slices of oranges, pears or cold geese; towers of purple quince jelly squares; grapes or shredded chicken breast; saucers of shrimps salted in their skins, and never forgotten, the famous eggs preserved for years in lime and served, sliced in beds of brown jelly (much prized for their acid and rather ammoniacal flavor, but not usually appreciated by foreigners). Hot wine of various brands and vintages is served throughout. That most common drink is a kind of sack or cherry negus, a yellow wine distilled from Indian corn. Being comparatively mild, it is served in small cups; ardent white spirits of rice, samshu, in thimbles. "Rice" wine is one of the several varieties flavored with roses. (No wine is made from grapes, though they are plentiful in north China.)

When all are seated ready for the fray, the host raises his cup:

"Let us drink!"

We reply, "Thanks, thanks!" then set to—with chopsticks—picking now from one dish, now from another, in piquant contrast of sweet, sour and salt.

The first fury of the opening attack being spent, the shattered bands of hors d'oeuvres are withdrawn, and the guests saunter into the other rooms for a whiff of tobacco or—whisper it not in Gath—a pipe of opium, en attendant the real repast.

Certain traditional dishes form the backbone of the feast. For instance, that most delicious of bouillies, shark's fin soup, always opens the ball. It is served in a large bowl, smoking hot, and consists of a gelatinous entanglement of soft fins stewed in their own liquor. The flavor is slightly salt, but exquisite. Another traditional dish appears toward the close of the feast in the shape of a fat duck reposing in its broth. Though boiled so thoroughly that a touch from a chopstick dissolves it without aid of knife, the bird appears on the table with smooth white breast and limbs intact, and its nobly toothsome appearance is usually greeted with a buzz of anticipatory applause.

The remaining items of the menu are only curious from the mode of their selection, for each guest chooses his own dish, taking care that it shall harmonize with those already selected. One names a saint of wild duck, his neighbor a dish of stewed mushrooms, and so on.

Wine, as remarked, is drunk throughout and always hot. The Chinese eschew all cold drinks. The cups being small their number has little effect. They cheer, but do not as a rule inebriate. Intoxication is extremely rare, though not apparently from moral considerations so much as from those of expediency, for tippleness is not generally regarded as disgracing.

The finger game, resembling the Italian mora, is played during meals, the loser swallowing as penalty a cup of wine. Two men play at a time. They show suddenly and simultaneously a certain number of the fingers of one hand, and as each thrusts them forth he shouts or squeals the number which he thinks will be the total of his own and his opponent's fingers. Thus, if A. thinks B. is going to put up three fingers he shows four and calls, "Seven" while B., expecting him to show two, himself shows one and vociferates, "Three!" This simple game is immensely popular throughout the 18 provinces.

Dishes are not as a rule cleared away during meals, so that toward the close of dinner the table is sloped and strewn with debris, a veritable field of carnage. From time to time the convives retire to smoke, and occasionally a refresher in the shape of a coarse towel wrung out of hot water is handed round for the guests to successively wipe their steaming faces with—an agreeable process that has been imitated in the luxurious toilet rooms of the United States. The apothecary of the dinner is the duck before alluded to. He is succeeded by a few sweet dishes. Finally comes a bowl or two of white boiled rice or millet porridge—to clean the palate. In home dinners rice is the chief item; in restaurant dinners it is rigidly excluded until the finale. Since bouques of warm water follow, then a cup of tea, and the feast is over.

The guests shortly afterward disperse, the host apologizing for the wretched dinner he has dared to set before them, the guests politely protesting, emphasizing their sincerity and rejection by volleys of eruptions.

When the giver of the feast leaves the restaurant, the amount of the bill is, in his honor, shrieked from court to court as far as the street door. A dinner such as described for a dozen people would cost about 30 shillings, would last three hours or so and would include, great and small, more than 50 dishes—Blackwood's Magazine.

Brought Up on the Bottle.

A gentleman was fishing with a friend when his sinker came off. Here was a dilemma—no sinker, no more fishing. All at once he thought of a flask he had with him. This he filled with water and sent it down on its mission.

After a few minutes' interval he exclaimed: "Ah, a bite!" and up he pulled at racing speed a fine pair of whittings, one on each hook.

"Ha, doctor," said his friend, "twins this time."

"Yes," said the doctor, "and brought up on the bottle too."—London Tit-Bits.

From microscopic observation it has been computed that the skin is perforated with 1,000 holes in a square inch.

The number of persons employed in English societies is over 385,000.

Danger Next Door.

Perhaps it's diphtheria, or scarlet fever. Keep your own home free from the germs of these diseases. Prevent your children from having them. You can do it with our Vapo-Cresolene. Put some Cresolene in our vaporizer, light the lamp beneath, and let the vapor fill the sleeping room. Have the children sleep in the room every night, for it's perfectly safe, yet not a single disease germ can live in this vapor. Ask your doctor about it.

Vapo-Cresolene is sold by druggists everywhere. A Vapo-Cresolene outfit, including the Vaporizer and Lamp, which should last a life-time, and a bottle of Cresolene, complete, \$1.25; extra supplies of Cresolene 50 cents and 50 cents. Illustrated booklet containing Cresolene Co. 170 Fulton St., New York, U.S.A. Recommended and sold by C. H. Gunn & Co., Central Drug Store.

"OPERATIVE WORDS."

What They Mean in Legal and Business Transactions.

"Operative words," said a member of the District bar to a reporter, "are of the utmost importance in legal documents and in business affairs."

"Probably the most seriously important operative word in human affairs is composed of but three letters, and it appears in print thus, 'Yes.' When she says 'yes' to a man, it means that she transfers her heart and hand and forever all of her property to him who asks her to be, etc. This little word establishes the most important contract of society, and, while this contract may afterward be dissolved by mutual consent, if one of the contracting parties demurs and backs out a suit for damages is open to the other."

"In auction sales the property put up is anybody's until the auctioneer says 'gone' or 'sold' and the hammer drops. No matter how the sale is regretted or how much the parties would like to retract it it stands, and the courts will sustain it."

"In a will they are 'give, devise and bequeath.' Real property is 'devised' and personal property 'bequeathed.'"

"In a note the borrower must 'promise' to pay, and in a bond he must 'bind' himself."

"In some states in a deed certain words are necessary to convey real estate. The courts have held generally, however, that the word 'grant' will carry a good title. In New York, for instance, the operative words constitute quite a formula and are 'grant, bargain, sell, assign, transfer, set over and convey.' That's the old form. Now the words 'grant and release' are sufficient."

"In a lease the word 'let' must be used. They have an odd formula in New York for centuries probably, consisting of 'grant, devise and to farm let,' and applied to all kinds of property. In a quitclaim deed the word 'quitclaim' must be used."

Our Nails.

"Finger nails and toe nails," says Harvey Sutherland in Ainslie's, "being merely flattened growths of the same kind of cells that hairs are made of, cease to grow about the same way, though their rate of progress has not been so carefully studied. Some say that the finger nails grow at the rate of one-thirtieth of an inch a week. Beans estimate that it takes 20 weeks to restore a thumb nail and 95 weeks to restore a toe nail. I don't believe that. Once, when I was about 16 and had even less sense than most boys at that age, I wrote them, though they hurt like sixty, and the first thing I knew the nails of my great toes came off. Well, I know that it didn't take any 95 weeks to make them good as new. Why, 95 weeks is two years, lacking not quite two months. Don't tell me!"

How to Spread Happiness.

When you rise in the morning form a resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow creature. It is easily done. A left off garment to one who needs it, a kind word to the sorrowful and an encouraging expression to the striving. It takes at least 24 hours. By the most simple arithmetical sum look at the result. If you send one person, only one, happily through each day that is 365 in the course of the year.—Selected.

Long Prevalent.

Mrs. Forrester—Seems to me that you would set your cap for Mr. Hall. He is evidently an easy catch.

Miss Chorister—Easy catch is no name for him. He has been an epidemic in our set for ten years.



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MEN AS THEY PASS.

Major Serpa-Pinto, the well known African explorer, died the other day in Lisbon.

President McKinley has promised to make an address at the banquet of the Illinois Manufacturers' association to be given in Chicago in February or March.

Ernest Brenner, the new president of the republic of Switzerland, is only 44 years old, yet he is deemed one of the ablest of the international lawyers of Europe.

Frank T. Howard, a millionaire of New Orleans, has announced his intention of giving to that city a sum of money for the erection and conducting of a model school.

Speaker Henderson is said to be dissatisfied with the portrait for which he sat a year ago. The face, he thinks, is a good likeness, but he objects that the artist has put a man's head on a boy's shoulders.

Ex-Speaker Reed declares that he has lost something over 30 pounds, in weight during the last few months and says the reduction in flesh has done him a world of good. He refuses, however, to make public the prescription, if he uses any.

Few public men have had so charming a home life as the late ex-Governor Wolcott of Massachusetts. Once, while he was in office, his very young son was asked at school who was governor of Massachusetts. "Papa says he is," said the boy, "but he fools so much I can't tell."

General Sir Redvers Buller, when a youth, had his choice among all the professions. His relatives pressed him to take up politics, as he had a private fortune. His ready response was, "I would rather be a private in the least of the queen's regiments than England's prime minister."

John Benjamin Parsons, head of the Philadelphia Union Traction company, has risen from a "\$5 a week job" to a post that pays him \$30,000 a year. Surface car lines have furnished a remarkably profitable field for executive ability, and the "traction millionaire" is one of the most interesting of his kind, as he is the newest.

After working as a locomotive engineer on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad for just half a century, Joseph West of Cumberland, Md., has been retired on a pension at the age of 75. In all the years of his employment he never received the slightest injury, and at no time was a man of his crew killed.

William Wallace Campbell, who has just been elected director of the Lick observatory to succeed the late James D. Keck, was born on a farm in Hancock county, O., in 1852. He made a specialty of astronomy at the University of Michigan under Professor Schaeberle, took the chair of mathematics and astronomy at the University of Colorado and later at Ann Arbor.

General John G. Parke, who died recently in Washington, was the last officer to command the army of the Potomac. General Meade was spending a few hours with General Grant at City Point when Kyd Douglas broke through the Federal lines, of which Parke had to take command. That was on May 23, 1865. The battle of Fort Steadman, one of the most brilliant of the war, was also fought under him.

THE ROYAL BOX.

The queen of Holland has an enormous fortune, only a part of which belongs to the crown.

The Prince of Wales recently had a pigeon house built near Sandringham castle, where carrier pigeons are trained by experts. He intends to put his pigeon house at the disposal of the British navy.

According to the dispatches, the widowed Queen Margherita will after all take up her home in Rome and devote her time and money to the intellectual and artistic development of her own country. She received under King Humbert's will about \$2,000, and the state makes her a dowager's allowance of \$200,000 a year.

The king of Spain has not yet been able to show her his taste or his pluck in riding, for his mother is so nervous about it that she did not even like to see him getting too bold on his wooden horse. The hour of the riding lesson on the rear thing is always one of anxiety for the regent. They say that this fear comes from a prediction which was once made to her by a gypsy.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Zinc is best cleaned with hot, soapy water, then polished with kerosene and coal ash.

White spots on furniture may be speedily removed by rubbing with a rag dipped in spirits of camphor.

When putting lace away, fold as little as possible. A good plan is to wind it around a card, as is done in the shops.

The brass picture hangers (hooks) which slip over the picture moldings hold the picture wire sometimes set badly. They may be made as bright as new by getting some muriatic acid, putting it in a cup or tumbler and, after stringing the hooks on a cord, dipping them in it a minute or two. Do not get this acid on hands or clothing.

PERT PERSONALS.

The suggestion that Bernhardt would make a better ghost than a flannel is positively cruel.—Philadelphia Times.

Harry Vardon, the champion golfer, is thinking of becoming an American citizen. What an acquisition he will be!—Somerville Journal.

If the ruined prestige and exploded pretensions of the Castellane family were put into a rummage-sale, the proceeds might help to pay for some of the brace for which suit is now pending. It is pretty nearly time for these unpleasant people to go into retirement. The country has had a surfeit of their doings.

PROGRESS.

The latest triumph in the industrial world is the stone lathe. It is 85 feet long and weighs many tons.

A machine that washes and dries 8,000 dishes an hour has been invented, and it is guaranteed that plates, cups, saucers and other dishes come out of the wash without a scratch.

To automatically indicate when a clock needs winding a toothed bar is attached to the winding shaft to rise as the clock unwinds, a lever being pivoted at the end of the bar to fall when the bar is drawn up high enough to clear it, dropping an indicator into view.

CEYLON AND INDIA TEA GREEN OR BLACK

There is nothing artificial about these teas. The purity is unquestioned, the flavor is delicious, the bouquet is a revelation. If you have never tasted British grown teas a treat awaits you. Japan tea drinkers try Ceylon Green.

Chatham's Millinery Store

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We have had the most successful Hat Sale of the season. We have a few left which must be sold. Hats trimmed with velvet, silk, ribbon, tips, ostrys and flowers, from 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50 to \$2.50.

A few Sailors left at 25c
Children's Bonnets at 25c and 50c

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If you have this awful disease you are in danger until completely cured; the various symptoms you notice should be a warning to you to get immediate treatment. Don't put it off until too late, as it continually gets worse. If you have sore throat, patches on tongue or mouth, swollen glands, hair falling out, blotches on body, itching skin, or other signs of this awful disease, call on us. We give you a written guarantee to cure you by our LATEST METHOD TREATMENT without Mercury or Potassium, and You Pay When Cured. Each time you call you see Dr. Goldberg personally, who has 18 Diplomas, Certificates and Licenses received from the various colleges, hospitals and States, which testify to his standing and abilities.

The original testimonials can be seen at our office: \$500.00 reward for any we cannot show; at request of patients we publish only the initials.

I am improving every day. I notice if I cut or scratch myself the sore will heal up. I hope you will not stop treating me as long as there is a sign of this awful disease. I am more afraid of it than death. I believe you have the right medicine for the disease. I feel so thankful to you for the good you have done me; I was a perfect wreck when I came to you, and was on the verge of suicide. To make a sure thing I would like to continue a while longer, so that it will not return. Very respectfully yours, Mrs. L. S. CASE NO. 318,083.

I am happy to say that your medicines helped my trouble more than any thing I ever took. W. M. G. CASE NO. 312,094.

Your treatment has helped me wonderfully. Oct. 15, 1899. A. D. CASE NO. 248,116.

I have confidence in you as a doctor, for you help me more than any one else has. R. F. J. CASE NO. 312,094.

Nov. 18, 1899.

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They fit the first time they're worn, and ever after, because the stretch and shrink has been for ever taken out of them while six days on the lasts.

Twelve shapes, all sizes, six widths, all colors, styles and leathers.

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