

The first report of the Medical Missionary Society's hospital at Macao : For the quarterly term beginning 5th July, and ending 1st Oct., 1838 / By the Rev. Peter Parker, M.D.

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THE
FIRST REPORT
OF THE
HOSPITAL AT MACAO,
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN CHINA.

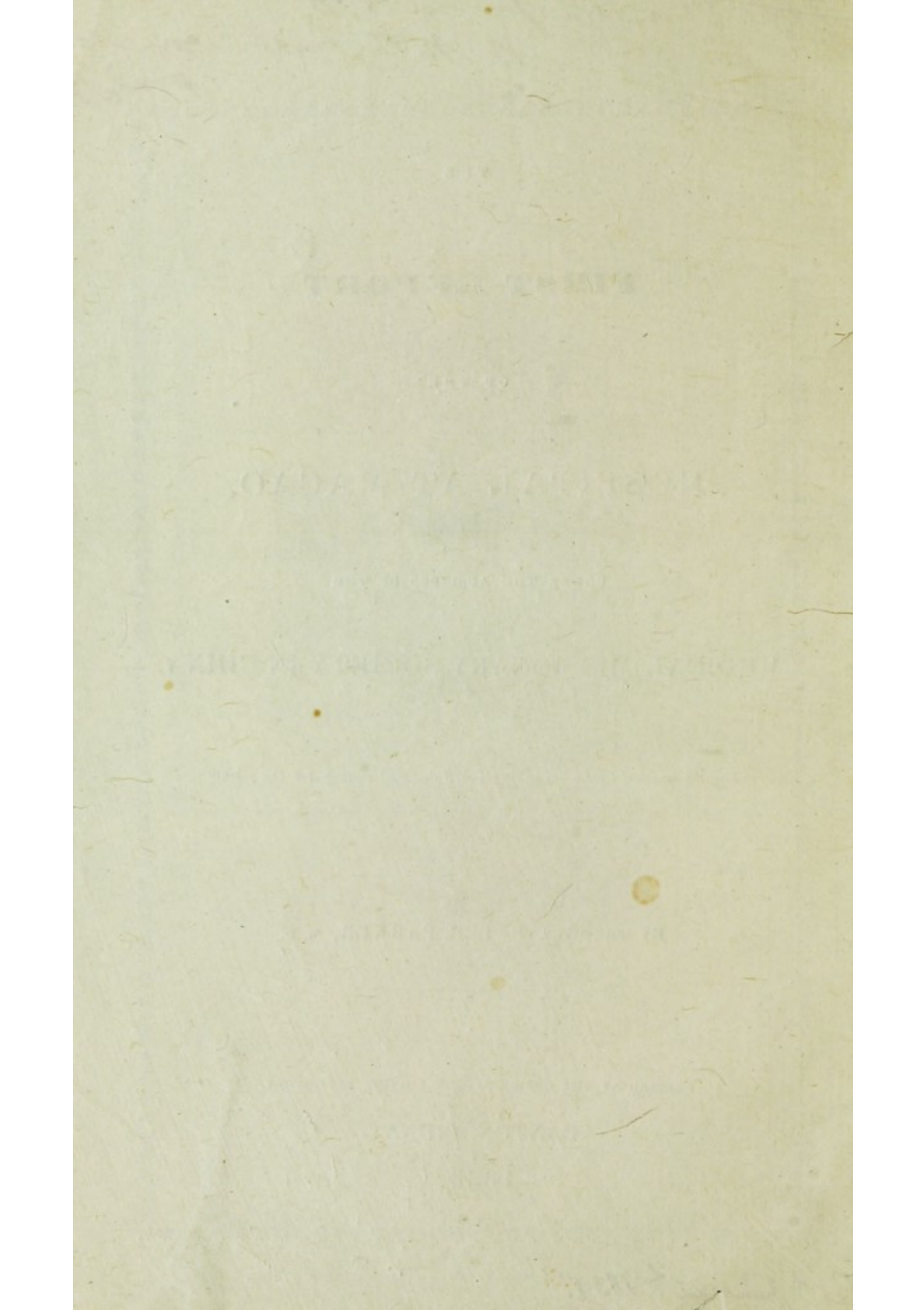
For the quarterly term beginning 5th July, and ending 1st Oct., 1838.

BY THE REV. PETER PARKER, M. D.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHINESE REPOSITORY.

CANTON, CHINA:

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THE REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

HOSPITAL AT NASSAU

IN THE CITY OF NASSAU

BY THE MEDICAL STAFF

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P 22

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REPORT.

IN accordance with a desire expressed at a general meeting of the Society in May last, the Hospital at Macao was opened on the 5th of July. Previous engagements to return to Canton, and the absence of any other medical gentleman to take charge of the establishment, rendered it necessary temporarily to close it on the 1st of October. It is with great pleasure that the report for this term is now submitted to the Society and its friends.

Often has the sincerest gratitude been felt towards the benevolent members of this Society, who have procured such an asylum for the afflicted Chinese, and to the respected President by whose judgment the spot was selected, when,—walking through its capacious and numerous apartments,—I have witnessed the comfortable accommodation afforded to the inmates, to many of whom it seemed almost a palace, in comparison with the narrow cells which they call their homes. The building is capable of accommodating two hundred patients. It has nineteen spacious rooms on the second story, well ventilated; and as many corresponding ones on the ground floor; a garden, and extensive compound, with three wells of water—in the rear; and a yard in front. The building is of brick, strongly built; and the whole of the ground (say a third of an acre) belonging to it, is surrounded by a substantial wall. It is in a healthy locality, overlooking the inner harbor, and has good access both by land and water.

It is delightful to contemplate the yearly augmenting relief that may here be afforded to the suffering Chinese. It is cheering and encouraging to regard the facilities that here exist, for the instruction of the young men of China in the principles of rational medicine and surgery. May the institution prosper every way — may there be no lack of men to conduct its operations, or of means to support and increase its usefulness — may it be the fruitful parent of many like institutions, under the conduct of Chinese, who shall have acquired the skill and science of the west, and shall have imbibed the benevolence and purity of the gospel.

Seven hundred patients were received into the Hospital during the term, towards the close of which many had to be sent away, from the inexpediency of receiving them for a few days only. Fewer important surgical cases presented themselves, in proportion to the whole number, than had previously been the case at Canton. With a few exceptions, the task of gaining the confidence of the people had to be commenced *de novo*. The suspicion and reserve at first manifested were greater than ever at Canton. The arrival, however, as patients, of gentlemen from Canton, and occasional visits of some who had been cured there, and of others personally acquainted with previous operations, tended very much to alter the feeling of the people. An unexpected auxiliary in effecting this change was found, too, in sundry of their idols, who, according to the interpretation of the Chinese priests, encouraged a large number of their votaries to apply to the foreign physician with assurance of success.

The following is a tabular statement of the numbers of each of the diseases that came under observation during the term.

Fevers - - - -	4	Spasmodic diseases: Asthma	8
Inflammatory disorders:—		Constitutional diseases:	
Abscesses, chiefly about the		Dentition - - -	2
head - - - -	27	Dropsy - - -	4
Carbuncles - - -	10	Opium mania - -	4
Fistulæ (in ano) - -	2	Scrofula - - -	12
Rheumatism - - -	25	Diseases of the organs of Cir-	
Thrush (ulcerated mouth		culatation: Aneurism -	1
and lips) - - -	2	Diseases of Respiratory organs:	
Ulcers, chiefly of lower extre-		Pneumonia - - -	12
mities - - - -	66	Diseases of Digestive organs,	
Whitlows - - - -	5	and the connected parts:	

Diarrhea - - -	7	Trichiasis - - -	1
Dysentery - - -	2	Lippitudo - - -	26
Dyspepsia - - -	2	Hordeolum - - -	2
Icterus - - - -	5	Mucocele - - -	3
Worms - - - -	4	Staphyloma (including 2 of the sclerotica) - - -	7
Diseases of the Liver and its connected parts:		Nebulæ - - -	12
Hepatitis - - -	2	Onyx - - -	2
Enlargement of the spleen	1	Glaucoma - - -	4
Diseases of Generative organs, and the connected parts.		Iritis - - -	6
Amenorrhea - - -	1	Cataracts - - -	10
Ovarian dropsy - - -	2	Amaurosis - - -	9
Prolapsus vaginæ - - -	1	Night blindness - - -	1
Urinary calculi - - -	2	Muscæ Volitantes - - -	1
Diseases of the Nervous system:		Complete loss of one eye	15
Neuralgia - - -	1	— of both eyes	6
Paralysis - - -	5	Tumor of the conjunctiva	1
Diseases of the Ear:		Preternatural and diseased growths:	
Cerumen deficient - - -	3	Polypi of the nose - - -	3
Deafness - - -	11	Tumors, Cutaneous - - -	1
Meatus auditorius wanting	1	— Sarcomatous - - -	10
Otorrhea - - -	9	Cutaneous diseases:	
Polypus of the ear - - -	1	Elephantiasis - - -	4
Tumor of the ear - - -	2	Various - - -	46
Ears rent by heavy ear-rings	7	Injuries:	
Diseases of the Eye:		Curvature of spine - - -	1
Ophthalmia, Acute - - -	23	Dislocations—of femur on dorsum illii, 1,— of astrag- alus, 1 - - -	2
— Chronic - - -	106	Various - - -	6
— Neorum - - -	2	Congenital defects and injuries:	
— Purulent - - -	16	Dumbness - - -	5
— Rheumatic - - -	1	Hare-lip - - -	12
Ophthalmitis - - -	2	Nevus materna, horribly affecting the expression and form of countenance,	1
Granulations - - -	20		
Pterygium - - -	30		
Entropia - - -	40		
Ektropia - - -	1		

No. 30. July 12th. Cataracts. Osteo-medullary-sarcoma, and nasal polypus. Woo Hoo, aged 41, a semstress of the village Pih-shan, was grievously afflicted with this singular complication of diseases. The nucleus of the malady commenced, seven years since, in a small hard prominence, at the internal angle of the right eye, just under the superciliary arch, accompanied by pain in both eyes. It is now four inches and a quarter in circumference at its base, and

nearly of a globular form, projecting about two inches. The eye is concealed by it; the puncta lacrymalis of the lower lid is drawn out of its place one inch and a half to the right. The base of the tumor is defined on three sides by an osseous projection. A milky white cataract exists in the right eye, and a soft polypus completely fills the right nostril. Several times the tumor has burst, and the patient *says*, she has cut off portions of the medullary fungus that protruded, and much hemorrhage followed. The constitution was impaired. Her tongue was white and bloodless. It being impossible to determine the extent of disease,—though probably it communicates with the antrum, and descends deep into the socket of the eye, and back to the posterior nares,—it was deemed inexpedient to attempt to remove it, notwithstanding the urgency of the patient and her relatives, and her threat, if others would not do it for her, *to operate herself*.

No. 32. July 13th. Cataracts. The history of this man's case is introduced in his own words. "Ting Hwantsung, aged 65, of the district Tahing, in the department Shunteën, of the province of Cheihle, has been on the civil list of this province for 30 years, and is now in expectation of the appointment of assistant magistrate.—I am at present residing in the street Teenkwan, within the city of Canton. On the 19th I embarked, and early on the 22d arrived at Macao, and I now earnestly beseech the Doctor to heal my blindness. In the 15th year of Taoukwang (1835), and the seventh month, my right eye became diseased, and at this time I am unable to see light. In the second month of the present year I was grievously afflicted, by carelessly taking cold. Under medical treatment my disease ceased, but afterwards the eye became daily more and more blind, and now only a glimmering of light remains. I earnestly entreat the Doctor to heal me; my gratitude will then be boundless."

The gentleman had Cataracts completely formed in both eyes, and upon the cornea of the right eye was a slight nebula. The cataracts were depressed in both eyes. No inflammation followed in either, the lens in the left eye partially arose, and, a fortnight from the first operation, was re-depressed with success. At the expiration of three weeks the patient was told he might return to his family whenever he chose. He wished to remain longer, and it was not till the first of September that he left. Previous to his return, he dined with me in European style, after which he was delighted to see the ships in the

harbor from the terrace and pointed out the elevations on the opposite side of the inner harbor, and said that "his heart dilated with gratitude in proportion as his eyes were opened to the light." This man was attended by a son 40 years old, and three servants. His deportment was uniformly that of a gentleman, and he was always ready to communicate intelligence, upon whatever subject interrogated. Being from the vicinity of Peking, it was interesting to learn from him the customs, and to gain local information, of that part of the country, and in return to answer his numerous and intelligent inquiries respecting the nations of the west.

Since my return to Canton, he has called and reported himself in excellent health. He informed me that since recovering his sight he had received a new appointment from government, and was immediately to go to the part of the province in which he was to enter upon the discharge of the duties of his new office, rejoicing in a *second youth*. His case is mentioned, not for any thing worthy of especial notice in a medical light, but as an example of the advantages the hospital will afford for free intercourse with Chinese of respectability and intelligence.

No 257. Aug. 8th. Nasal polypus cured by sulphate of zinc. Hwang Luh of Macao, aged 20, had a polypus that descended from his nostril a third of an inch, being attached to the superior turbinated bone. It just filled the nostril, was of a soft character, and had occasionally bled. The sulphate of zinc in substance was applied to the polypus. The next day the patient complained of much pain and soreness. A strong solution of sulphate of zinc, one scruple to two ounces of water, was substituted. The next day the sulphate of zinc in substance was again employed and the patient directed to use the solution twice daily. On the fifth day he returned and said he was cured! The excrescence had sloughed away, except a small portion of its attachment. The same treatment was continued, and on the ninth day the whole had disappeared. The patient presented himself some time after, and there was no return of the disease. This is the most remarkable case of the efficacy of this mineral in nasal polypus that I have witnessed, but not the only one.

No. 341. Aug. 19th. Hypertrophy of the arm. Woo Shing aged 27, a laborer of a village in the neighborhood of Macao, had a great enlargement of the left arm, which commenced at birth. It

resembled elephantiasis of the lower extremities, except that it was confined chiefly to the muscles and integument of the inside of the arm. At the bend of the arm it was eighteen inches in circumference, and thence it gradually diminished upwards to the opposite side of the insertion of the deltoid muscle, and downwards to the wrist. A hard glandular mass appear to be attached to the bones at the elbow, distinct from the general disease. The surface was excoriated and red, and there was constantly a limpid discharge. This and the weight of the tumor was the chief inconvenience. The patient was languid, tongue white and glossy, and the vital powers enervated.

Aug. 21st. In consultation with Dr. Lindsey, surgeon of H. M. ship Wellesley, and Mr. Anderson, surgeon to the Superintendents of British Trade, it was resolved to test the efficacy of iodine, both internally and externally, and should this not succeed, as a 'dernier ressort' to amputate the arm. The tincture of iodine was applied, gradually increasing the quantity from half a drachm to a drachm daily, and the arm was bandaged and suspended. Lugol's tincture of iodine was administered internally, beginning with ten drops, three times a day, and gradually increasing the quantity to twenty drops. As the pulse was quickened and some epigastric uneasiness was produced, the tincture was omitted for a few days, then resumed. Blue pill and Ext. colocynth, was taken occasionally, as the symptoms required. The arm became softer and considerably diminished, but upon omitting the Iodine and bandage for a short time, it returned to its former size. The same treatment was resumed and continued till the close of the hospital, when the patient was provided with the same medicines to carry home; but was told that amputation would probably be the only means of permanent cure, and whenever he was prepared for that he could come to Canton.

No. 457. Aug. 27th. Chaon Tihkwei, aged 1 year. The child was of a fair complexion, and delicate skin. Her lower extremities were covered by warty excrescences, some single, others in clusters, many of them of the figure and size of a mulberry. At first hyd. cum cretâ 5 grains at night, and cal. mag. in the morning were ordered, and the sulphur ointment applied externally. On the 4th September a solution of nit. argent. four grains to the oz. was applied by a feather to the excrescences, some of which were ulcerated. In one week the mother returned with the child, saying that the lotion was very good

and desiring more. The disease was fast healing; the same treatment was continued, and in about three weeks the little girl was well.

An unusually large number of cutaneous affections of every variety has presented.

Hare-lips. Twelve patients with this malformation have been received, and in several instances in one week from the operation the patient has been quite cured. The fortitude of these little children has been very noticeable, they appearing, often through the whole operation, almost insensible to pain.

The *nevus materna*, in the table of diseases, was of a dark crimson color, affecting the upper lips and extending over the nose and forehead. His profile as viewed from the left side resembled a hog's, the snout being large and well defined. The man, aged 27, and also his mother, regarded it as a great mortification.

Abscess of the thigh, supervening upon fever. Hwang Yueme, aged 17, of the district of Hwuychow, a student resident at Mongha village, near Macao. About the first of September, when called to this young man, he was a mere skeleton, excepting his thighs, which were very large. He was filthy in the extreme, and large sores had been formed on the sacrum and elbows from his long confinement. Fluctuation was very distinct in both thighs. Feeling unable to be removed to the hospital he was prescribed for at his house, and the next day he reported that one of the abscesses had burst and discharged about 4 quarts of puss, and he felt much relieved. The second day I revisited him and opened the abscess of the opposite side, which discharged an equal quantity of puss with the other. The next day he was removed to the hospital on a litter,—being informed of the severity of his illness, but that everything should be done for his comfort and for his recovery,—though the latter was scarcely to be expected. He and his father were grateful for the offer.

The daily discharge was very great. Tonics were administered during the day, and opiates at night. The abscesses were carefully dressed once or twice daily, and bandages applied. In about four days after the bursting of the abscesses his tongue and the roof of his mouth became coated with a thick yellow crust, which, after the lapse of about one week, came off and left the surface quite smooth and red.

His pulse was still small, and quick, and ranged from 100 to 120. The father was told that a fatal crisis was fast approaching. He went to a fortune teller, who cast the horoscope. He came back delighted — exclaiming, he will not die now, and presenting a paper, showing that a man born upon the day his son was would not die then. He still lingered on, the discharge becoming daily more fetid, and his body more loathsome. The day previous to his decease he seemed bewildered at times, cried saying his aged grandmother in his native place had been dead more than a month, and grieved that he had not been present to administer to her comfort, filial feeling being the ‘ruling passion strong in death.’ On Sabbath morning, just a fortnight from entering the hospital, his immediate release seemed certain. At 4 o’clock P. M., it was manifest he could not survive many hours. He had his senses fully. He was reminded that one could feel but little regret at leaving an old house just ready to bury its inmates in its ruins, provided a new and commodious one were presented in its stead, a comparison he full well understood, for it was a change he had experienced. He listened attentively. He was then informed that he must in a few hours experience a still greater change, but that there were mansions prepared on high, to which the Saviour (of whom he had previously heard) would welcome all that trust in him. He seemed pleased with the idea, rather than agitated at the fact that he must die so soon. I did not leave him till he breathed his last, at about 9 P. M. The father was less reconciled to the event, and when told his son was dying he could not believe it, but insisted upon giving him some “strong medicine.” His son being already unable to swallow, he was authoritatively told that he should not increase his sufferings by so doing. In a little time his sufferings were all ended. His father then attempted to administer the strong medicine; but convinced by the attempt that all was over with his son, he prepared a potion for himself, which he swallowed quickly, exciting in us the apprehension that he had taken opium. It proved however to be otherwise. The body was interred in the course of the night, without much troubling the hospital.

Aneurism spontaneously cured. A girl, 16 years old, a fortnight previously to entering the hospital, received a blow from a playmate with a Chinese pillow (which is a cylindrical apparatus of bamboo), upon the left temporal artery, high on the forehead. There was at the time a flat tumor extending nearly to the ear, to the outer angle

of the eye, and down upon the cheek. A fluctuation was felt, but no pulsation except a very slight one in the temporal artery, extending about an inch from the wound. There was neither pain nor redness. Aware that if necessary the artery could be readily divided or taken up, a small incision was made through the integument at the most prominent point, and a small probe introduced, upon an elastic membrane, which yielded to pressure, but immediately resumed its place as that was removed. A lancet was introduced perpendicularly just sufficiently to puncture the membrane. Arterial, mixed with streaks of coagulated, blood escaped. Sponges of cold water were applied to the surface and styptics to the puncture; the hemorrhage stopped without difficulty. Three days after this the aneurism was carefully examined, and was not a little handled. It was concluded on the next operation day to take up the artery, but on entering the ward early next morning, several patients exclaimed that the tumor was half gone. A very perceptible diminution had taken place, and a small hard *ball*, formed an elevation above the injury of the artery. An evaporating lotion was applied during a few days, and the swelling gradually lessened. A compress and bandage were then substituted, and in a fortnight, when the hospital was closed, the whole had disappeared, except the remains of the *ball*, now less in size than a tamarind stone; and no inconvenience was felt.

No external ear. A third case of a Chinese without an external ear or meatus auditorius has presented. The lad was 16 years old. His hearing was good in the right ear only.

Asthma of children. The eight cases of asthma were mostly of children under 10 years, living in small boats, and from infancy exposed to every variety of weather.

The disappointment of patients, who came in numbers up to the day of leaving, increased the regret felt, that no medical gentleman had arrived from England or America to continue the operations, as there had been encouragement to expect, a physician of Glasgow having been reported in private letters to be about to embark from London in April. The addition and repairs to the Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton having been completed, and the period having arrived when, according to public notice previously given, it should be reopened, it was impossible to prolong the term at Macao, and the hos-

pital was accordingly closed on the 1st of October. It is with much pleasure, however, that letters have been received, stating that a surgeon of experience was on the point of embarking from London for China, in August last.

It is learned with much satisfaction, that the object of this Society has been favorably regarded both in England and Scotland. Sir Henry Hallford, President of the London College of Physicians, in an address before the College, reported in the London Medical Gazette for February last, in exhibiting some of the results of successful medical practice, took occasion to allude to the operations of this Society with approbation of its principles. Among the individuals present were — 'H. R. H. the duke of Cambridge, the archbishop of Canterbury, the duke of Wellington, sir Robert Peel, and many distinguished members of the Church, the Bar and Senate.' The address is said to have been listened to with great attention, and to have excited general interest. What will be the result remains to be disclosed. It is occasion of gratulation that the subject has thus been commended to the attention of men who have it in their power in various ways to promote our objects, and we anticipate a result favorable to those objects and to the welfare of the vast population of China.—From a widely circulated Scottish Journal, it appears that our objects have also been auspiciously commended to the attention of the enlightened and philanthropic public of that country.



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