

**Report of the Chinese Hospital, at Shanghae, from July 1st 1847, to
December 31st, 1848 / by the Committee.**

Contributors

Chinese Hospital (Shanghai)
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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REPORT
OF THE
CHINESE HOSPITAL,
AT
SHANGHAE,
FROM JULY 1st 1847, TO DECEMBER 31st 1848.



BY THE COMMITTEE.



SHANGHAE, 1849.

REPORT

OF THE

CHINESE HOSPITAL

AT

SHANGHAI

FROM JULY 1st 1847 TO DECEMBER 31st 1848.

—

BY THE COMMITTEE.

—

SHANGHAI, 1849.

Printed by the Committee, at the Chinese Hospital, No. 1, Cross Street, Singapore.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Chinese Hospital at Shanghai, was held in the hall of the Hospital, Tuesday, January 30th, 1849.

Present: Rutherford Alcock, Esqr. H. B. M. Consul, Revd. Messrs. Medhurst, Bridgman, Lowder, Milne, Stronach, and Yates; A. G. Dallas, R. P. Saul, and A. Wylie, Esqrs.

Rutherford Alcock, Esqr. was requested to take the Chair.

The Treasurer's account was presented.

The Secretary's account of expenditure was presented.

The Report of proceedings was read, when it was proposed by Revd. W. H. Medhurst, seconded by Revd. J. Stronach.

'That the Treasurer's account, and the account of the expenditure of the Hospital be passed, and the report of the proceedings for the past eighteen months, now read, be adopted by this meeting, and printed for distribution among the Subscribers, and for transmission to the Committee of the Medical Missionary Society at Hongkong.'

It was proposed by Revd. Dr. Bridgman, seconded by Revd. J. Lowder.

'That the Committee, consisting of T. C. Beale, A. G. Dallas, C. Shaw, and W. Lockhart, Esqrs. be requested to continue their services for another year.'

It was proposed by Rev. Dr. Bridgman, seconded by Revd. W. C. Milne.

‘That the best thanks of the meeting be given to W. Lockhart, for his able and successful management of the hospital during the past year.’

The business of the meeting being concluded, a vote of thanks to Mr Alcock, for presiding over the same, was passed, and the meeting separated.

(Signed) RUTHERFORD ALCOCK,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
CHINESE HOSPITAL, SHANGHAE,
FOR THE PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN MONTHS,
From July 1st 1847, to December 31st 1848.

Instead of the report of the Hospital ending in June, as on former occasions, it has been determined by the Committee to present it for eighteen months, and thus bring it down to the end of the year ; so that in future the report of proceedings will be from January to December, and will close just before the period for holding the Annual Meeting. Then the report, as passed by the Annual Meeting here, can be sent down to the Medical Missionary Society at Hongkong, and added to the general report of the Society.

During the past summer, the weather has been unusually wet and cold, with much easterly wind. During the whole of the latter months, the thermometer never rose above 92° ; and in July there was a severe typhoon, accompanied by a flood, which deluged the surrounding country. During the storm the barometer fell an inch or an inch and a half, the wind being chiefly from the E. and N. E. As the tide rose, the water was forced up the river, and by the time it was three-quarters flood, the neighbourhood of the river was all under water, to the depth of three feet. The time of high water was 5 P. M. but happily at 2 P. M. the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm for half an hour ; when it began to blow from the south, and afterwards violently from the S. W. and W. Had the

wind continued to blow from the N. E. during the whole time of flood tide, much more injury would have been done to the European settlement, as well as to the Chinese town. During the storm, much damage was done to the villages and hamlets, situated on the banks of the Yang-tsze-këang. In consequence of the absence of heat during the summer months, the crops have been very poor, especially that of cotton. The people say, that the crop was far from equal to that usually gathered; giving merely ten to twenty catties of cotton, to the mow, or sixth part of an acre, instead of from 100 to 150 catties. The rice was not so much affected as the cotton, and the rice harvest taking place later in the year, the crop, though light, was not very much below the average.

In a former report it was stated, that the Chinese have found by experience, that autumns, following wet summers, are very unhealthy in this district; and certainly the remark is correct, as far as relates to the past year. The bed of alluvial soil, forming the extensive plains of this province, becomes thoroughly saturated with water during such summers, and owing to the very high spring tides of the autumn months, very little drainage can take place. After the end of August, likewise, the days are still hot; but the nights are cold, and the deposit of dew is consequently remarkably heavy, soaking every thing exposed to the night air with moisture. This constant dampness of the ground is a fruitful source of malaria, and those who are exposed to its influence, are very liable to suffer from it; till the frost sets in, which by the Chinese is

said to be, the destroyer of evil influences arising from damp ground ; or, according to the European form of expression, it destroys all malarious emanations. During the months of June and July, the Chinese suffered from a severe form of petechial fever ; which, from all that could be learned respecting it, was critical on the 7th day. In the worst cases, many persons died on this day ; and those who got over this period, generally struggled through the disease, though much debilitated. Many deaths were also caused by cholera. From the numerous cases that were spoken of by the Chinese, at one time, it was feared that an epidemic of this fearful pestilence, was about to visit this neighbourhood, but the cases appear to have been only sporadic. In the autumn, many Europeans were attacked with low bilious remittent fever, and some deaths resulted from it. Congestion of the liver and spleen appeared to be the chief affection at first, but typhoid symptoms soon set in, with oppression of the brain, which speedily prostrated the remaining strength of the patient.

Intermittent fever and diarrhoea prevailed, likewise, to a great extent amongst the members of the European community, during the autumn and commencement of the winter ; and the Chinese have suffered severely from the same affections, especially from intermittent fever, during the winter months ; it having prevailed among them, more than has ever been noticed in former years.

This will account for the large sum of money expended in the purchase of Quinine ; for though the Chinese are much more easily brought under the influence of Quinine (as is the case with almost all other medi-
 cines)

nal agents) than Europeans are, still there were so many cases of ague, that this medicine was largely used during the latter part of the year; and it was a fortunate circumstance, that a good supply of this invaluable medicine could be procured on the spot.

In the accounts of ague and its treatment, by Chinese writers on medicine, little has been found of much interest. The descriptions of this disease are particularly meagre and unsatisfactory. But there was one prescription found, which shows that the Chinese are acquainted with the power of arsenic, in checking the periodicity or return of ague. The prescription was obtained from a teacher, who said it formed one of a series of prescriptions, which has been kept for some time in his family; and the subject is one of so much importance, that the whole of the prescription is here given entire.

立止三日大瘧方

陳香櫟一枚

上雄黃三錢

先將香櫟剝空後將雄黃貫入
以小火煨燼共存性共研細末
每服三錢以陳酒送下

TRANSLATION.

"Prescription to stop the tertian or greater ague.

"Take one dried orange; orpiment or sulphuret of arsenic, three drachms.* Scoop out the inside of the orange; introduce the arsenic into it, and over a slow fire, let them be roasted to ashes, preserving the essence of both; then reduce the whole to powder; and of this, let each dose be three drachms, taken with old or mellow wine."

According to this mode of preparation, the dose of arsenic must be very uncertain; for, as the sulphuret is volatile, a large portion of it will pass off; but some of the metal, in the form of oxide, will remain among the ashes of the orange, quite sufficient for a powerful dose.

The interesting part of the prescription is, that the Chinese should have discovered the use of arsenic for ague. This is perhaps the most certain remedy for this disease, when carefully used; and in the form of Fowler's Solution of Arsenic, the Liquor Arsenicalis of the Pharmacopœia, proves most efficacious in breaking up the periodicity of intermittent fevers; and though, according to the above prescription, the dose must be very uncertain, the mere circumstance that the medicine is so used by the natives of this country, is one that may induce observers to institute further researches into the native medical works, by which means further analogies of treatment may be found. It may be mentioned here, that in cases of sloughy ulcers, the

* The tsëen or mace, here spoken of, is the tenth part of a tael, and as the latter weighs 600 grains, the mace is exactly equivalent to a drachm of Troy weight.

Chinese use chloride of mercury, or calomel ointment, to cleanse the ulcer and produce a free purulent discharge.

In the months of September and October, the wards of the Hospital were filled with cases of gunshot wounds and very severe burns, received on board of junks, that had been attacked by pirates. In one of these cases, a piece of an iron bar, two inches long, passed through the thorax and lung of the left side, just above the heart. Much inflammation supervened; large quantities of serous pus were ejected at both of the wounds, and the man died from exhaustion. In another case, a ball passed through the left thigh, then entered the abdomen, and passed out on the right side of the thorax. A piece of omentum projected at the abdominal wound, causing much irritation and distress; and extensive sloughing took place, at the side of the thorax, where the ball had made its exit. The man suffered very much, both from the wound in the abdomen, and from violent inflammation of the right lung. Several abscesses formed in the course which the ball had taken, giving rise to violent pain and excessive suppuration; the pus was frequently tinged with a yellow fluid like bile. Hectic fever came on, and the man remained in a very precarious state for several weeks; but, after a hard struggle, the wounds gradually healed, and he finally left the hospital, almost well. He has since been heard of, and was gradually recovering his health.

In one of the cases of severe burns, the cuticle of almost the whole surface of the body was destroyed. The man suffered very severely, but the sloughs se-

parated ; and by the use of good diet, with constant care, it was hoped he would have recovered, as he was strong and vigorous ; but on the sixteenth day he died from lock-jaw. The symptoms of trismus came on in the morning of the 12th day, with stiffness about the neck, and rigidity of the lower jaw ; but appeared to yield, in some slight degree, after the free use of opium and camphor. On the morning of his death, he took his breakfast of soup and rice, with more readiness and better relish than he had done previously, though there was still considerable difficulty in administering food, from the state of the jaw: but shortly afterwards he suddenly began to sink, and died in three or four hours.

Seven men were admitted, who had been severely burnt by an explosion of gunpowder, on board a Shan-tung junk. One of the seven, to play a trick on his companions, or to frighten them, had foolishly placed a lighted paper match, over the magazine or jar of powder ; however, the fire fell into the jar, which exploded, and they were all very severely burnt. Six of them soon recovered, but one poor fellow, whose clothes caught fire, was so much burnt on the abdomen, back and legs, that when the sloughs separated, the crest of the ilium and the patella protuded, stripped of periosteum. There was very little prospect of the man living, and as the vessel had to return home, he insisted on going in her, with his friends. A supply of ointment and other medicines was given him ; but it is not probable that he would long survive his removal.

The case of gun-shot wound of the head occurred in an old man, the captain of a junk. The ball entered

on the right side, about the apex of the parietal bone. The external wound was very small, but the bone was much depressed and shattered. He was quite sensible, though the left side was partly paralyzed. On admission, his wife, who came with him, would not allow any operation to be performed. Three or four days afterwards, as the symptoms of paralysis increased, she gave her consent, and several pieces of bone were removed. After the external wound had been enlarged, all the bony fragments were taken away, some of them from the depth of an inch, in the substance of the brain. The ball could not be reached, nor could its position be detected, being evidently lodged deep in the brain. He had less pain after the operation, and appeared to be rather better for a day or two, but coma gradually came on, and he died on the 16th day after the receipt of the injury.

The case of amputation of the fore-arm, was that of a man belonging to one of the northern junks. His vessel was attacked by pirates ; and while engaged in its defence, his gun burst, by which his hand was torn off at the wrist, with much laceration of the soft parts. He came to the hospital, two days after the accident, and the next day the operation was performed. Chloroform was administered with perfect success. The patient felt no pain whatever. He said, he knew that something was being done to him, but he felt no pain ; during the operation he began to sing a Chinese song ; after the dressing was finished, he said he felt very well, and wished to be allowed to walk to his bed, instead of being carried. A superficial slough formed

on the edge of the posterior flap, which prevented complete adhesion by the first intention ; but the case went on well, and the stump is now thoroughly healed. The chloroform did not produce any unpleasant symptoms whatever.

A beggar presented himself one day among the out-patients, with violent inflammation of both eyes, having the lids enormously swollen. He said, that he was helping a plasterer, who was working at a new house, and while raising a basket of freshly-mixed lime, on to the scaffolding, some of the lime had fallen into his eyes. On examining these organs, it was found, that the lids were stuffed full of mortar, which was impacted between the lids and the ball of the eye, in a solid mass ; it was very difficult to break it away in small portions, and absolutely impossible to remove it altogether. On its being remarked to the man, that the lime could not have been introduced between the lids in such a large quantity, if it merely fell into his eyes ; he said, that the accident had nevertheless happened, exactly as he described it ; that while looking up, when busy at his work, a quantity of lime fell on his face, some of which got into his eyes. Further investigation, however, showed, that the man had intentionally filled both eyelids with lime, for the purpose of destroying his sight, that thus he might attract attention and sympathy towards himself, in his forlorn condition, and be enabled to obtain more money from those who were benevolently disposed. His state at that time was certainly a very lamentable one ; he had violent pain in his eyes ; both corneæ were in a sloughy state ;

excessive suppuration was flowing from the conjunctivæ, and the eyes were totally destroyed. This plan is only one of many, often resorted to by beggars, to destroy their eye-sight, and make themselves objects of pity.

A large number of accidents, fractures of the limbs, concussion of the brain, contusions and severe wounds, received at the European buildings, from the falling of the scaffoldings, and falls of the workmen from the tops of the houses, have been admitted into the hospital, at various times. In one or two of these cases, of the worst kind, the patients have died ; but the great majority have gone out again quite restored.

Not more than twenty cases of vaccination are reported, for the last eighteen months. This is partly owing to the circumstance, that during the former year, the supply of vaccine lymph had failed, and several persons were disappointed, when they brought their children to be vaccinated. It is the case, also, that the Chinese, in this region, appear to have more confidence in their own form of inoculation, than in vaccination as introduced by foreigners. Through the kindness of Dr. Stewart, Presidency Surgeon of Calcutta, and of the managers of the Royal Vaccine Establishment in London, supplies of lymph are now received regularly ; and it is hoped, as the benefit of vaccination is more known among the people, it will be more appreciated.

The number of patients, for the last eighteen months, is about the same, in proportion, as those reported in former years, as may be seen by reference to the general summary of the cases ; and though there may be

little among the cases, of great professional interest, much bodily infirmity and pain has been relieved ; and it is hoped, as years pass by, and the operations of the hospital are regularly continued, and more generally known at a distance from this place, that its influence will extend further and further ; and not only prove a means of affording temporal relief, but be a pioneer for the spread of the Gospel, by shewing to the natives of this part of the empire, the practical benefits of Christianity, and affording them an opportunity of hearing the precepts of Him, who is the prince of peace. To Him we look for a blessing on all the efforts we make ; and while we would declare unto the Chinese, that better way and that holier religion, of which they are still as a nation ignorant, we would seek to impress our lessons by these constant exhibitions of brotherly love, and endeavour to prove to them that we strive for their temporal as well as spiritual welfare.

ABSTRACT OF OBSERVATIONS by the Thermometer, in the open air, in a shaded situation with a southern exposure; the maximum for the day, and minimum for the night, taken by a self-registering Thermometer.

1847	Maxm. by day	Minmm. by day	Maxm. by night	Minmm. by night	Average by day	Average by night
July	96	77	78	72	87	76
August	92	75	80	68	86	75
September	93	68	78	62	81	71
October	82	62	65	45	72	57
November	71	58	60	41	66	52
December	67	38	53	21	52	41
1848						
January	62	36	39	22	43	33
February	60	32	46	20	46	30
March	71	42	55	30	54	41
April	77	45	65	35	59	49
May	82	64	72	51	74	60
June	86	68	72	61	78	65
July	92	75	78	70	83	75
August	88	72	79	68	83	74
September	86	73	77	60	80	68
October	82	57	67	43	69	58
November	73	37	60	27	59	41
December	77	40	49	27	53	39

LIST OF PATIENTS ATTENDED TO,
FROM 1ST JULY 1847, TO 31ST DECEMBER 1848.

Intermittent fever	916	Severe contusions	139
Cough	1,096	Concussion of the brain	5
Asthma	400	Severe burns	33
Hæmoptysis	124	Fistula in ano	25
Phthisis	71	Excrescences round anus	59
Dyspepsia	1,637	Prolapsus ani	12
Dysentery	406	Perineal fistula	5
Hæmatemesis	52	Fissure of anus	6
Hæmaturia	7	Artificial anus after stran-	
Jaundice	71	gulated scrotal hernia	1
Ascites	55	Do. at navel	1
Anasarca	126	Slough of scrotum with	
Rheumatism	1,275	protrusion of testicle	4
Rheumatic enlargement		Syphilis	50
of joints	25	Soft nodes on bones	6
Scrofulous do. do.	10	Fracture of thigh	2
Paralysis	15	Do. neck of femur	2
Trismus	1	Do. of both legs	1
Epilepsy	13	Do. of leg	4
Opium-smoking	88	Do. clavicle	5
Attempted suicide by		Do. arm	1
opium	2	Do. fore-arm	4
Deafness	112	Do. skull	2
Erysipelas	6	Dislocation of lower jaw	1
Abscess	242	Disease of antrum max-	
Abscess in theca	15	illare, with protrusion	
Ulcers	412	of the eye	1
Hernia	172	Fungus from the antrum	2
Hydrocele	29	Destruction of lower jaw	
Severe wounds and lacerations of various parts	71	of one side, with opening through the cheek	1

Caries of lower jaw	2	Granular lids	600
Cartilaginous tumour		Do. with opacity	579
from the gum	1	Do. do. pannus	424
Various tumours	6	Chronic conjunctivitis	372
Enlarged glands of neck	12	Leucoma	198
Goitre	3	Ulceration of cornea	416
Rubeola	5	Conical cornea	214
Malignant ulceration of		Staphyloma	78
nose and face	1	Amaurosis	69
Malignant tumour of face	2	Cataract	48
Fungus hæmatodes of		Do. incipient	50
thorax	1	Synechia	16
Gun-shot wounds, of		Irregularity of pupil	133
body and limbs	15	Closure do.	15
Do. head	1	Abscess of iris	6
Hand blown off by burst-		Hernia iridis	8
ing of gun. Amputation	1	Loss of both eyes	96
Penetrating wound of		Do. one eye	159
elbow-joint	1	Contraction of tarsi	172
Leprosy	60	Fistula lacrymalis	8
Elephantiasis	46	Trichiasis	63
Psoriasis	272	Entropium	200
Lepra	325	Ectropium	79
Psora	490	Lippitudo	440
Porrigio	121	Pterygium	369
Do. decalvens	48	Destruction of both eyes	
Do. lupinosa	14	purposely effected by lime	1
Catarrhal ophthalmia	405	Vaccination	20
Total number of individual cases			<u>14,386</u>

The Committee desire to acknowledge the following donations of medicines, for the hospital.

Received from the late John Hetherington, Esqr. twelve bottles of fluid extract of bark.

Received a box of medicines through Dr. Coldstream, of Edinburgh.

Received three boxes of medicines from the Ladies' Association at Hackney, in aid of Medical Missions to the East, of the value of £40.

The Committee desire, also, to express their thanks to the ladies of Maberly Chapel, London, for \$ 150. as a moiety of the proceeds of a box of fancy articles, sent through Miss Philip, for sale at Shanghae.

DR.

CHINESE HOSPITAL, SHANG HAE, IN

1848			Dls.	Dls.	Cts.
Feb. 26	To paid Mr. Lockhart for ground-				
	rent, paid by him to Chi-				
	nese Authorities			6	55
May	" Mr. Lockhart	200			
"	" Messrs Turner & Co. in-				
	terest to 28 April 1848, on				
	debt to them	80			
July 23	" Mr. Lockhart	150			
Nov. 4	" Do.	100			
Dec. "	" Do.	55	43		
				585	43

Balance

30 0

\$ 621 98

1848
Dec. 30To the amount due on the hospital, being
money borrowed, at interest, from
Messrs. Turner & Co.

\$ 500

ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE TREASURER.

CR.

		Dls.	Dls.	Cts.
1847				
Dec. 31	By Cash in hand per account rendered		21	98
1848	„ Sundry subscriptions for 1848			
Jany.	Rutherford Alcock, Esq.	25		
to	Messrs. Dent, Beale & Co.	25		
Dec.	„ Thomas Ripley & Co.	25		
	Thomas Moncreiff, Esq.	25		
	James White, Esq.	25		
	C. D. Mackenzie, Esq.	25		
	C. Shaw, Esq.	25		
	W. Pyke, Esq.	20		
	A. MacCulloch, Esq.	20		
	Messrs. Platt, Hargreaves & Co.	20		
	Revd. W. H. Medhurst	10		
	R. P. Saul, Esq.	10		
	L. Shadwell, Esq.	10		
	John Hetherington, Esq.	10		
	Revd. Dr. Bridgman	10		
	E. Webb, Esq.	20		
	A Friend	20		
	A. G. Dallas, Esq.	25		
	Harry S. Parkes, Esq.	20		
	Chinese, Urh-joo	5		
„	„ Donations from	—	375	0
	Mrs. Alcock	25		
	Mrs. White	25		
	George Dent, Esq.	10		
	J. Grant, Esq.	10		
	Miss Wainwright, Liverpool	5		
		—	75	0
July 23	„ From Mr. Lockhart, being part proceeds of a sale of fancy articles, sent out by the Ladies of Maberly Chapel, Kings- land, London, through Miss Philip		150	0
		\$	621	98
1848				
Dec. 30	By Balance brought down, cash in hand	Dols.	30	

*E. and O. E.**Shanghae, 30th December, 1848.*

CHAS. SHAW,

Treasurer.

T. C. BEALE,

Auditor.

DR. THE CHINESE HOSPITAL, IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH W. LOCKHART. CR.

[illegible]

E. and O. E.

Shanghai, 30th December, 1848.

W. LOCKHART.

Audited by T. C. BEALE.