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Chinese allow lepers to marry, and that the children of lepers are allowed to marry other children of lepers in the same generation. It is believed, that such children are capable of communicating the disease, and that they will eventually have it in a milder form. Similarly children of the second generation, are allowed to marry other children of the second generation. The Chinese believe, that, even the third generation will have leprosy, but not in a communicable form. Children of the further generations are allowed to return to the general community. These rules however, appear to exist rather in theory than practice, for lepers are often found begging in Chinese cities, and Dr. Thin states on the authority of Sir Halliday Macartney, who made enquiries from members of the Chinese Legation, that there is no law of any kind which forbids marriage of lepers to each other, or to healthy persons.

In Crete there are three leper villages. The lepers receive a daily dole of bread from the municipalities, but no further care is taken of them, and they live either on their own resources or by begging in the towns. No suitable employment is found for them. In the above mentioned villages, lepers can live with their families, and there are cases of leprous husbands living with non-leprous wives. — Children born in these villages are not separated from their parents. No cases of supposed contagion are mentioned in Mr. Biliotti's report.

In Trinidad a considerable area of land is attached to the Asylum, and many of the patients are allowed to grow provisions, each leper having his own garden. The produce is bought by the Government and consumed at the leper Asylum. This plan is found to be of great use in keeping the lepers out of mischief, and also in retarding the progress of the disease. It is astonishing to see the amount of work which is done, by anæsthetic lepers, who have lost all or most of their fingers.

Thus the want of occupation which is the chief difficulty in China and Crete does not exist in Trinidad, and I believe, that if some part of that fertile tropical island were set apart as a farm, and lepers encouraged to marry and settle on it much of the irregular life and insubordination, which at present exist would be done away with.

This remark applies to all countries in which leprosy is endemic. Leper settlements should be made as comfortable and homelike as possible, and their inhabitants by being allowed to marry and settle down, each in their own cottage and garden, should be helped as far as possible to forget, that they are outcasts. The aged and infirm, and those suffering from acute diseases would be better cared for in an infirmary, and such a building should always be attached to the leper village. Children, if any are born, should be removed to orphanages. This is already being done at Almora, Purulia and Trinidad. but the experience of various places quoted in this paper, shows that comparatively few of the children of lepers develop the disease.

I believe, that if encouragement like the above, were held out to lepers, most of them would gladly enter such villages. Their lives would thus be made happier, and the danger to the community would be lessened. Such views may be deemed Utopian, but I feel sure, that my personal experience justifies them; the more so, since I am convinced that compulsory segregation in asylums, if attempted, will never succeed.











































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































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