

## Nova et Vetera.

### THE HEALING ART IN JAVA.

DR. H. BOHATTA has recently published an essay<sup>1</sup> giving many interesting details of native medical practice that may be gleaned even to-day in Java, owing to the fact that Netherland colonies are administered as far as possible without disturbing national customs and habits.

Although Java very early came into contact with India, the medical practice of the latter country had little effect upon Javanese methods. In Java the influence of evil spirits is believed to be a potent source of disease, especially among children, while, unlike other islands of the Archipelago, winds and serpents are viewed with little concern. Massage, a truly native custom, occupies the same important position that it does elsewhere in the East. Dreams are of vital importance in determining prognosis; "If a tiger bite or spring upon the dreamer, death is near." "If in a dream musk, roses, incense, or other sweet-smelling substance be held in the hand, health will be soon restored." Drugs are almost entirely of vegetable origin, while charms and exorcisms are in daily use.

Medical practitioners in Java are of two sorts, *Doctors ajawa*—natives who have had a European medical training and are duly qualified—and the *Dukuns*—the genuine native medicine men and women, for women form no small proportion. They are much beloved, and age—and therefore experience—is more highly valued than skill or learning. They are called in on all sorts of occasions; in cases of illness to expound dreams; in cases of robbery to discover the culprit, to drive off evil spirits from those setting out on a journey, and so on. They know potent incantations, possess charms with healing properties, file teeth, arrange festivals, etc. They divide illnesses into either a cold or hot variety, and treat them with ointments and poultices, medicines and pills, charms and incantations; stress is laid upon dietetics, but from surgery they stand aloof, treating fractures with internal medicines and poultices.

The Dukun supplies his own drugs, consisting of leaves, barks, roots, fruits, etc., which are used as powders, extracts, or decoctions, occasionally supplemented by purchases in the market place from Chinese druggists or merchants. Dosage is fairly definite, most use being made of the uneven numbers 3, 5, 7, and 9. Measures in common use are a finger's length, a finger-joint's length, a handful (the woman's hand is invariably employed), a tea or table spoonful, a *deut's* weight, a nit's size, etc. The shape or colour of some drugs is taken as indicating the disease in which they may be useful, for example, the yellow root of *Curcuma zedoaria* is a cure for jaundice, the red bark of *Coesalpinia sappan* a remedy for haemorrhagic diarrhoea. Massage is applied with much dexterity; kneading, either with the thumb or the fist, being used over all the parts where nerves may be compressed, while muscles are vigorously rubbed with the oiled hand.

According to native ideas the spirit may be temporarily separated from the body, and this frequently happens at night, when all that the spirit sees or suffers is recognized as a dream. Illnesses are explained as a separation of the spirit from the body, the charms and spells of the doctor being an effort to drive back the wandering spirit. A spirit no longer able to enter a dead body swells the number of those already in the air, who seek to enter another body, manifesting themselves as disease or delirium, or sucking the blood of children or pregnant women during sleep. Mankind is universally enveloped by spirits who dwell in trees, glades, mountains, water, and air. The spirits who kill women during parturition are particularly dreaded. They go by the name of *Pontianaks*, and are figured as lively, laughing, beautiful women with long flowing hair and a hole right through their bodies. The *Penang galen*, female spirits who can leave the body at night, and are composed only of head and entrails, suck the blood of women in labour. The *Puwaka* is a spirit dwelling in trees, striking with epilepsy those who loiter in their neighbourhood; *gendruwo*, a little man with an enormous head, goggle eyes, and grinning mouth, frightens children by shaking trees and so on.

<sup>1</sup> Special supplement to the *Wiener medizinische Wochenschrift* (No. 42, 1904).

Protection against such influences is, of course, important, and immediately after delivery—a time of special risk—the mother is given a small bundle of cocoa leaves upon which to lay her head, while all around her are strewn flowers and fruit, together with a knife that she must use for forty days. Children wear amulets and various offerings are made to the different spirits. Among the charms may be noted: Water that has been laid on some particular place—for example, a dead man's grave—thereby acquiring a healing property; a brush made of various twigs used at marriages, circumcisions, or for sprinkling the sick with healing water; an egg or other round body—for example, a ball of wax, rolled under the patient's body to drive away illness; and so on. To determine the end of an illness, a stem of *Curcuma longa* is split into two, and laid upon the finger; a charm is muttered and the pieces allowed to fall to the ground. If one rests on the round side and the other on the cut flat side the augury is favourable.

Much importance attaches to midwifery and the care of the pregnant woman; a feast offering is made at the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth month. During pregnancy no eggs, spiny fish, or shrimps must be eaten, since these cause false pains or very painful labours. The wife must not leave the spoon in the salt, lest the labour be a difficult one, must not stop any irritation lest the child have very large eyes, must not injure or kill any animal lest the child be deformed or marked, must not sit upon the rice-stamp for fear of painful confinements. After birth, the cord is tied 2 to 3 cm. above the navel and cut with a sharp piece of bamboo; for forty days the Dukun massages the abdomen to bring it to its proper shape, binding it round from the breast to the hips with long strips of material.

Dr. Bohatta has transcribed some prescriptions from a Dukun prescription book, and gives also a list of drugs and their preparation and uses, paragraphs on mental and epidemic disorders, the hospitals, and a note on the native veterinary practices. The whole essay will be found most interesting by the student of medical history, medical folklore, and magic.

### LITERARY NOTES.

OPPORTUNELY with the appointment of the Royal Commission on Vivisection comes the announcement of a new and revised edition of Mr. Stephen Paget's well-known book, *Experiments on Animals*. It will be published early in October by Messrs. Nisbet and Co.

Messrs. John Wright and Co., Bristol, will very shortly issue a complete set of large midwifery diagrams designed by Dr. Victor Bonney. The set comprises 160 figures upon 24 large sheets, uniform with the *First Aid Diagrams* issued by the same firm.

The *International Medical Review* is the title of a new periodical, the object of which is said to be "to establish a permanent exchange of professional knowledge and experience among the medical practitioners of the whole civilized world." It will appear at first in English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. A Russian edition is contemplated. The *International Medical Review* will be published quarterly at Berlin under the editorship of Dr. Hugo Neumann.

The Walter Scott Publishing Company will issue in October a work entitled *Race Culture or Race Suicide?* by Dr. Robert R. Rentoul of Liverpool. The work is described by its author as "a plea for the unborn." The causes of degeneracy are discussed in twenty-one chapters, and suggestions are made for the prevention of an increase of degeneracy.

Messrs. W. B. Saunders and Co. announce for early publication a new work entitled *Surgery, its Principles and Practice*, edited by Dr. W. W. Keen of Philadelphia. The complete work will extend to five octavo volumes of about 800 pages each, and will contain over 1,500 original illustrations. There are sixty-five contributors of various nationalities, all recognized as authorities in the several provinces.

Dr. Ludwig Feinberg of Berlin has written a work entitled, *Die Erreger und der Bau der Geschwülste, insbesondere der Krebsgeschwülste*. As its title imports, it deals with the exciting factors and the soil in relation to the development of tumours, especially those of malignant character. The work is in two

volumes, one of which is an atlas of microscopic drawings from original preparations. The atlas has already appeared; the volume containing the text will be published shortly. They can be obtained only through Gebr. Unger, Bernburger Strasse 30, Berlin, S.W.

Messrs. Macmillan have in preparation a work, entitled *Alcohol and the Human Body: A Study of Modern Knowledge on the Subject*, by Sir Victor Horsley and Miss Mary Sturge, M.D. The same publishers will also issue the first series of *Collected Papers on Circulation and Respiration*, by Sir Lauder Brunton (announced for October 2nd); *Studies in the Bacteriology and Etiology of Oriental Plague*, by Dr. E. Klein; *The Clinical Study of Epilepsy*, by Dr. W. Aldren Turner; and *Some Points in the Surgery of the Brain and its Membranes*, by Mr. Charles A. Ballance.

The eleventh volume of the second series of the *Index Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Office* (Mo-Nystrom), which has recently been issued, is a striking illustration of the rapid growth of medical literature. The library now contains 155,292 bound volumes and 271,851 pamphlets. The *Catalogue* further indicates the directions in which the greatest advance has been made, and the trend of medical work. Thus it is interesting to note that the mosquito, which occupied but a twelfth of a page in the first series, has five pages all to itself in the new series. The increased attention given to the nervous system is shown by a corresponding extension of the bibliography. The space occupied by the subject is greater by nearly a hundred pages of titles, and this would be augmented by more than sixty pages if the headings of nerves, neurology, neuritis, neuralgia, neuroses, and the like were included. The literature of diseases of the nose has also grown very largely, extending to more than eighty pages.

*Medicine* for August quotes the views of Benjamin Franklin on cold and influenza, which show that he anticipated the doctrine of the "open window." He held that influenzas which were usually classed as colds do not arise, as a rule, from either cold or dampness. He pointed out that savages and sailors, who are often wet, do not catch cold, and that the disease called a "cold" is not caught by swimming. He maintained that those who live in the forest and open barns or with open windows do not catch cold, and the disease called a "cold" is generally due to impure air, lack of exercise, or overeating. The following passage shows that he considered common colds to be contagious, as well as influenza: "I have long been satisfied from observation that, besides the general colds now termed 'influenza,' which may possibly spread by contagion as well as by a particular quality of the air, people often catch cold from one another when shut up together in close rooms and coaches, and when sitting near and conversing so as to breathe in each other's transpiration, the disorder being in a certain state."

A correspondent asks who is the author of the well-known lines:

God and the doctor we alike adore,  
But only when in danger, not before;  
The danger o'er, both are alike requited,  
God is forgotten and the doctor slighted.

They are attributed by J. Cordy Jeaffreson, in his *Book About Doctors*, to Alexander Pope, although we cannot find them in the works of that poet.

In a report of the well-known *Clinique Nationale Ophtalmologique des Quinze-Vingts* of Paris, Dr. Constantin Golesecano gives by way of introduction a historical sketch of the treatment of the blind. In Egypt a corporation of the blind took part in funeral ceremonies. In Greece blind children were thrown into a pit, where they were left to perish. With the advent of Christianity the lot of the blind changed. In the fourth century Saint Basil founded a hospital for the blind; in the fifth Saint Linus founded one at Saint Cyr; in the eighth century there were similar institutions at Cherbourg, Bayeux, and Caen. In 805 Charlemagne decreed severe penalties against those who ill-used the blind. In the thirteenth century there were refuges for the blind at Rouen, Chalons, and near Orleans. At Chartres there was one known as Les Six-Vingts (six score). In Paris the institution known as the Quinze-Vingts (fifteen score) was founded by Saint Louis, in whose reign the blind formed a powerful congregation of "Brethren." Between the time of Saint Louis and that of Louis XVI the institution acquired considerable wealth and obtained

valuable privileges from the Sovereign. The right to beg in churches was from an early period granted to the members of the corporations for the blind in Paris and Chartres. Bearing the fleur de lys as a badge, they used to walk up and down the nave of Nôtre Dame during the services, praying aloud and indicating the saint of the day to the faithful. In 1771 Valentin Haüy, brother of the famous crystallographer, seeing some blind people made a show of in a Paris fair, was moved to pity and set on foot a movement to better their lot. With the help of influential backers he founded an institution for their education. His efforts were successful, and the creation of his charity weathered the storm of the Revolution. In 1802 it was by Ministerial decree amalgamated with the Quinze-Vingts; but it soon recovered its independence. Other institutions for the education of the blind were founded in Paris by the Sœurs Aveugles de Saint-Paul and the Frères Saint Jean de Dieu. In 1886 the Société d'Assistance pour les Aveugles was established, mainly owing to the efforts of M. Péphau, Director of the Hospice des Quinze-Vingts.

A special number of *Alma Mater*, the Aberdeen University magazine, has been issued in honour of the Quatercentenary. By way of prelude, Mr. R. C. Macfie, M.A., M.B., conjures up the buried past, and sees as in a vision the Grey Friars chanting where Marischal College now stands. He summons from the dead the King who wore the iron belt, Bishops Elphinstone and Dunbar, and the Earl Marischal.

Four hundred years have passed away  
Since Friars black and brown and grey  
Gave place to Science and to Art.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Yet even four hundred years have won  
Some victories over pain and death.

Mr. Maarten Maartens, LL.D., contributes a tale entitled, "The Ring: a Bit of Dutch Religion"; Mr. Thomas Hardy, LL.D., sends some lines on Aberdeen; Sir James Crichton-Browne, too (like Byron), "subsides into poetry," with a variant on the theme of "Dulce Domum." Mr. J. D. Symon, M.A., sings of "The City of Dreams." Mr. J. M. Bulloch, the historian of the University, discusses the evolution of the student as a factor in its life. A large part of the number is, as is natural, devoted to reminiscences. Dr. George Skene Keith tells of Marischal College as it was seventy years ago, while the Very Rev. William Walker, Dean of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, describes King's College in the late Thirties. Dr. J. Donaldson, Principal of the University of St. Andrews, recalls his memories of Marischal College between 1846 and 1850, and Dr. David Ferrier gives his recollections of King's before and after 1860. Dr. Robertson Nicoll writes of the country student forty years ago. Dr. Arthur Keith, Lecturer on Anatomy at the London Hospital, discourses on life at Marischal College in the Eighties, and Mr. John Hay Lobban writes of a nearly corresponding period at King's. Dr. Leslie MacKenzie, Medical Member of the Local Government Board for Scotland, recounts the story of the birth of the Students' Representative Council. Mrs. Rachel Annand Taylor tells of the coming of the women students. Professor J. Arthur Thomson, under the title of "Photographs—Possible and Impossible," gives some telling literary snapshots of places and scenes. Professor J. Wight Duff contributes a scholarly article on sonnets from the antique, illustrating the subject with some excellent translations. The number is admirably illustrated, and presents a handsome appearance worthy of its varied and interesting contents.

In the *Century Magazine* for September Dr. Robert Bennett Bean deals with the negro brain. He begins by pointing out that the negro race is now considered to be one of the oldest races in the world, evidences of its existence in prehistoric times having been discovered recently throughout Africa, Australia, and Oceania. The negro brain is smaller than the Caucasian, the difference in size being represented in both grey matter (nerve cells) and white matter (nerve fibres). Assuming that grey matter and white matter respectively represent nerve cells and fibres numerically, the possibilities of developing the negro are therefore limited, except by crossing with other races. This has been done to such an extent in times past that it is difficult to determine whether a pure negro really exists in America. Dr. Bean states that observations made on thousands of

negroes throughout the Middle Atlantic and Middle Western States, extending over many years, and the critical examination of more than 100 brains from a representative element of the negro population, enable him to classify the American negro in two large groups. One of these comprises the great majority of the negroes of the South, and the physical and mental characteristics of this group indicate purer negro blood than the other. The other group, which is decidedly in the minority, is largely distributed through the North, and shows traces of previous minglings of races, the individuals being commonly designated as mulattoes. Dr. Bean has made a comparison of brains from these with forty-nine brains of American Caucasians. These brains were from a representative element of the American negro population, and from the lower classes of the whites, especially the white females, who belonged to a notably low social class. The brain of the negro male is demonstrably smaller than that of the Caucasian male. The brains from the females of the two races are virtually of the same size. The average weight of twenty-two male negro brains, weighed by different men, at various times, in divers places, with different systems and under dissimilar conditions, is 1,256 grams. The average weight of ten female negro brains of a like assortment is 980 grams. Waldeyer gives the average weight of twelve negro brains in the fresh state as 1,148 grams. These are European records, the brains having been obtained from native tribes of Africa and elsewhere. It is evident that the brain of the American negro weighs more than the native African, no doubt because of the greater amount of white blood in the American negro. It has been found that the weight of the brain in the American negro varies directly in proportion to the amount of white blood in the individual, those less than one-half white having smaller brains than the pure negro. The brain weights of more than 4,000 individuals of various Caucasian nationalities collected by Marshall of England, Retzius of Sweden, Bischoff and Marchand of Germany, Matieka of Bohemia (Slavs), and others, show an average of about 1,400 grams for males and about 1,250 grams for females. It is evident, then, that the Caucasian brain is larger than the negro brain, and in a mixture of races the brain weight resulting is directly in proportion to the amount of Caucasian blood in the individual, other things being equal. The size and shape of the front end of the brain are different in the two races, being smaller and more angular in the negro, and larger and more rounded in the Caucasian. The convolutions of the Caucasian brain are more elaborate and the fissures are deeper than in the negro brain, while the relative amount of white matter is greater in the Caucasian brain. Dr. Bean holds that his investigations have established the facts: (1) That the Caucasian brain is heavier than that of the negro; (2) that the relative quantity of the white fibre is greater in the Caucasian than in the negro; and (3) that the anterior association centre (front end of the brain) and the front end of the corpus callosum are larger in the Caucasian than in the negro. The first two propositions are held to corroborate the statement made previously that the negro brain contains both less grey matter and less white matter than the Caucasian. The white and the black races are, therefore, antipodal in cardinal points. The one has a large frontal region of the brain, the other a larger region behind; the one is subjective, the other objective; the one a great reasoner, the other pre-eminently emotional; the one domineering but having great self-control, the other meek and submissive but violent and lacking self-control when the passions are aroused; the one a very advanced race, the other a very backward one. The Caucasian and the negro are fundamentally opposite extremes in evolution. Dr. Bean's conclusion is as follows:

Having demonstrated that the negro and the Caucasian are widely different in characteristics, due to a deficiency of grey matter and connecting fibres in the negro brain, especially in the frontal lobes, a deficiency that is hereditary and can be altered only by intermarriage, we are forced to conclude that it is useless to try to elevate the negro by education or otherwise except in the direction of his natural endowments. The way may be made plain to the black people, and they may be encouraged in the proper direction, but the solution of the question still must come from within the race. Let them win their reward by diligent service.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

THE initial meeting of the session of 1906-7 at the Medical Society of London is to take place on Monday, October 8th. The incoming president is Mr. C. A. Ballance, who will deliver an address entitled *Then and Now in Surgery*.

THE New Sydenham Society will hold its annual general meeting on Monday next, at 4.30 p.m. It is the forty-seventh in succession, and will take place at the house of Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, 15, Cavendish Square, W.

MR. CHARLES S. TOMES, F.R.S., will distribute the prizes of the Royal Dental Hospital of London at a *conversazione* to be held at the Royal Institute Galleries, Prince's Hall, Piccadilly, on Friday, October 19th, at 8 p.m.

THE subject of Dr. Leonard Mark's Presidential address at the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society next Friday evening is to be art and medicine. It will be illustrated by lantern slides of pictures with a medical interest to be found in British galleries.

WE are requested to state that it has been decided that the opening address of the winter session of the West London Post-graduate College, to be delivered by Mr. Keetley, shall be given on Wednesday, October 10th, at 4.30 p.m.; not on Thursday, October 11th, as previously announced.

THE post-graduate clinical lectures at the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, recommence on Tuesday next at 3.30 p.m. The first lecture, dealing with local lesions of the spinal cord, will be delivered by Dr. Collier.

THE King has been pleased to approve of the reappointment of Obadiah Johnson, M.D., to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Southern Nigeria.

HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN'S DISEASES.—The winter session at the Hospital for Children's Diseases, Great Ormond Street, will begin on October 4th, when Dr. Garrod will deliver the opening lecture on *Some General Considerations of Disease as it Occurs in Children*, at 4 p.m. On October 11th Dr. Thompson will lecture on *Infantile Asthma and its Treatment*. Lectures and demonstrations will be given free to medical practitioners every subsequent Thursday at 4 p.m.

GRESHAM LECTURES.—Four lectures on "Prophylactics in Medicine" will be delivered on October 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, at 6 o'clock, by Dr. A. T. Schofield (for Dr. Symes Thompson, the Gresham Professor), at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C. Lecture I will deal with *Personal Prophylactics*, Lecture II with *Domestic Prophylactics*, Lecture III with *Public Prophylactics*, and Lecture IV with *Unconscious Prophylactics*. The lectures are open free to the public.

A SANATORIUM AND MARKET GARDEN.—The Open-Air League whose General Committee includes the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Lord and Lady Iveagh, Lord Monk Bretton, Sir Edward and Lady Sassoon, Sir Edmund Hay Currie, the Hon. W. F. D. and Lady Esther Smith, and Mrs. Humphry Ward, and whose Advisory Committee includes Drs. James Goodhart, George Heron, Wilfred Hadley, Percy Kidd and Vaughan Harley, was formed early in the present year to provide inexpensive sanatorium accommodation for the consumptive poor, to educate the public as to the advantages of the open window, and to find occupation for consumptives, cured in sanatoriums, that will enable them to escape the dangers which they must incur if they return to the unsuitable conditions under which their health broke down. It is announced that the League will open its first sanatorium colony at Great Clacton, Essex, in the course of a few weeks. The institution will be conducted by Dr. John Chapman. The sanatorium will accommodate twenty-five patients in the incipient stages of the disease, who will be taught practical market gardening. They will be kept in residence sufficiently long to enable them to recover their health and to fit them either independently or in association with the work of the League to earn a livelihood away from the dangers of town life. It is estimated that the total expenditure will barely exceed £1,500 a year, or an average inclusive cost of 25s. a patient weekly, and it is expected that even this figure will be reduced by the value of the work of the inmates. In the meanwhile the League appeals to the public for further funds. Fuller particulars of the objects of the League may be obtained on application at the offices of the Open-Air League, 79, Harley Street, W., and contributions will be gratefully received by the Honorary Treasurer (Lady St. Helier) or by the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Charles Reinhardt.