

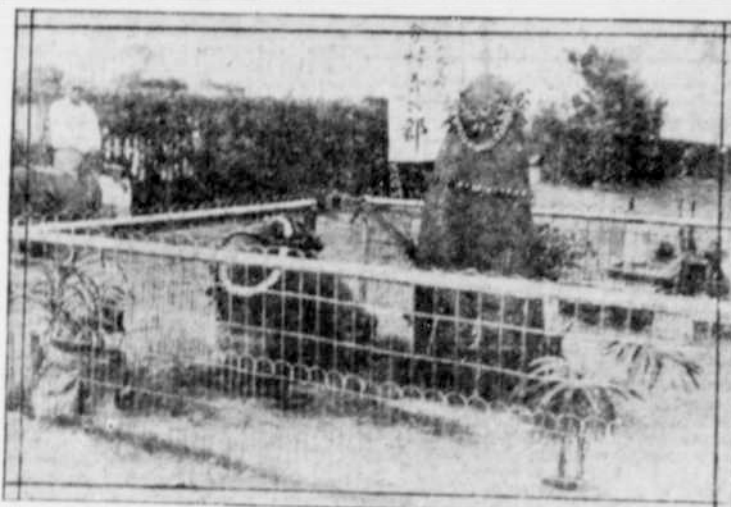
CLEVER DANCER



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HAWAII'S STRANGE "CURE" STONES



Above, the Hawaiian "healing" or "cure" stone with its garland of flowers and offerings all about. At the left can be seen a man who sells water to those who come. The modern steel fence is in heavy contrast to the mystery of the two stones. The smaller one is much respected by the women who pay strange worship at midnight before it.

By NANCY LYNDON

Is the superstition of the native Oriental population of Hawaii stronger than the combined efforts of an American educational system that cost last year, more than \$4,000,000, plus an extensive public health system?

There is an interesting answer to this question in the recent pilgrimage of many thousands of Hawaiian, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino and other residents of Hawaii to seek "cures" through offerings and prayers to two "Miracle Stones" located just outside the city limits of the modern and prosperous city of Honolulu.

Effective Cures?

Offerings of all kinds have been brought to these strange stones, which are believed to be capable of effecting marvelous cures. Nearly \$2,500 was deposited in the tiny collection box near the railing around the stones.

Citizens have protested against the pilgrimages; others, because of the veneration and belief in the stones, island legend and mythology, have counseled that the matter be ignored.

The legend responsible for this remarkable pilgrimage has been handed down by the old Hawaiians, one to the other, and in the telling has taken on the color of the individual story-teller, so that exact origin is uncertain.

Cock Broke Spell

One legend has it that the taller of the two stones is the Hawaiian god, Lono, who was the first great healer. Another is that the stone is a new god showing his powers by the marvelous cures said to have been effected.

Another, and possibly the favorite legend, concerns the story that the stones were really two sisters of royal lineage who lived on the island of Kauai, the most northerly island of the Hawaiian group. They flew, so the story runs, to the island of Oahu, on which is located Honolulu, by magic. While in the air passing over the island, a cock had the audacity to crow three times, thus breaking the spell so that the sisters turned to stone and dropped to the ground.

Worship Late at Night

About the smaller of the two stones

there are conflicting stories. One is that it is an evil stone and the reverence is paid to prevent it doing harm. Another is that it is especially efficacious for mothers and children and that special cures will result from the appeal of mothers.

Queer things are whispered about it and it is said that the women pray to it in groups rather than singly, their habit of going late at night to worship this stone, creating all sorts of weird stories about the rites involved. It is certain that women spend many hours on their knees before this stone. There are other legends which, while repeated by the natives, could hardly be printed.

Offer Pork Chops

American residents of the island believe that the stones have been stolen from old graves, but just how and when, cannot be proved. Notwithstanding the fact that much of the white population has little to do with these stones, there are some thousand pilgrims a day that bring their strange offerings.

Among the offerings have been such incongruous things as a paper box containing two pork chops, some sliced tomatoes and a bottle of castor oil. Garlands of flowers, rice and money are the most common of the offerings. Fruit, flower and soda water stands have appeared in the vicinity to serve the seekers of good luck. Among the strange things offered for sale are bunches of eucalyptus leaves, by an ancient Chinese, Wong Low. His advice to buyers included the statement that if the leaves were rubbed on the stone, taken home and placed in hot water and then used for bathing, a cure was sure.

Another, Wong On, a tailor, claims

(Continued on Page Six)

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Negro history week, a national celebration, which is annually observed everywhere in the United States, was celebrated the second week in February of this year. The purposes of the celebration are to popularize the study of Negro life and history and to secure more support for its promotion. This is the only movement of its kind in the United States and is directed by Carter G. Woodson.

African Pioneers

In Africa they discovered iron, and with it developed industrial arts, the demand for the products of which brought rich traders out of the heart of that continent into the Mediterranean world.

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Worship Late at Night
About the smaller of the two stones

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