

CHINESE LADIES' FEET.

At five years of age the rich Chinaman's daughter has her feet so firmly bound that, in the native phrase, the whole is killed. The foot below the instep, explains a writer in the New York Ledger, is pressed into a line with the leg, to add to the height of the little sufferer, while two of the toes are bent under the sole, that its breadth may be only of the least dimensions. The agony of such a process it would be hard to estimate; but it is said to last about six weeks, when, I suppose, the wasting of all the parts, and the cessation of many of their functions, have rendered the whole insensible to pain.

This insensibility to pain is, perhaps, confined to the outer parts, for the chief person belonging to the temple on the island of Honam stated that his sister suffered much anguish in the sole of the foot, or rather, in its lower and more central parts.

To some inquiries as to whether this practice of destroying the foot was not attended with similar evils in after-life, he said no; and as he was a man of intelligence, his verdict may be relied upon. Among the multitudes who come for health and cure to the hospitals, no one has yet been met with whose ailments could be imputed to this source. This is a curious fact, and such as might well lead us to desire a more intimate acquaintance with the anatomy of this morbid organ, that we might see how nature, under the pressure of so great a calamity, has contrived to maintain the intercourse of the arterial and nervous system, and keep the limb from being materially injured by it.

The development of the muscles which form the calf of the leg being checked, the limb consequently tapers from its socket down to the foot, without any risings or inflections. This is regarded as the perfection of beauty by the Chinese, who say that the knee of the female is not protuberant, like the knee of the male, and is so well covered that she can remain kneeling a long time without inconvenience. It is perhaps less throughout its length than when the foot is allowed to retain its natural size; but whether this is from want of exercise, which ever acts as a stimulus to muscular deformity, or from the lack of nutriment through functional disturbance, I can not take upon me to say; but I suspect the former is the real cause; otherwise the matter would grow from bad to worse, till the whole was destroyed by atrophy.

A foot two inches in length is the ideal of a Chinaman, on which he lavishes the most precious epithets which nature and language can supply. But its beauties are altogether ideal; for when stripped of its gay investments, it is a piteous mass of lifeless integument, which resembles the skin of a washerwoman's hand after it has undergone a long maceration in soap and water. The sight of it is well fitted to excite our compassion, not our commendation—a beautiful limb crushed into a heap of deformity.

The thought of seeing a Chinaman's foot might awaken a smile; but I think I might defy the most merry-hearted to laugh when the loosened bandages disclosed the sad reality to his eyes. But fancy has played her part so well that this piece of ruined nature, which is seldom seen by men, is treated as the prime essential of all feminine beauty.

"The foot of a Chinese woman," said I to a Chinese acquaintance, "is very handsome, so that it is a great pity to spoil it." He smiled with much satisfaction at the compliment, but would only allow that it interfered with the gait. "They can not walk so well," was the amount of his concession in my favor. He was so biased as not to know the real state of this organ, and therefore his admiration had no alloy.

Custom rendered my eye so familiar to the small foot that a Chinese lady would scarcely seem to be complete without it; but it was my misfortune to see it unmasked, and therefore I could not sympathize with him. To show that there is great privacy about this small foot, I need only mention that the servant, when her mistress proceeded to unwind the bandages, blushed and turned her face to the wall.

EFFECTS OF SMOKING.
According to Neal Dow it dulls a Person's Moral Sense.

General Dow is as strongly opposed to the use of tobacco as he is to liquor drinking, and has carried on a life-long crusade against it. He always has claimed that tobacco dulls the moral sense.

Many years ago, relates the Lewiston (Me.) Journal, before there were any railroads, a man traveling in a stage-coach with Dow one day lighted a cigar.

"I wish you would stop smoking, sir," said Dow.

"Is smoking offensive to you?" the man asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I'll stop as soon as I have finished this cigar."

Without another word Dow suddenly reached forward, pulled the cigar from the man's lips, and threw it into the road.

The man fired up, but looked at the well-knit figure of his fellow-passenger, regarded the bright light in his eyes—and cooled off.

"I recall an incident coming down the right, while I was traveling in Europe," said the general. "European railroads did not have a separate smoking-car then, and I don't know as they do now. A passenger in our car was complacently smoking his cigar."

"You're an Englishman, sir, aren't you?" I said to him.

"Oh, no," said he, briskly, "I'm an American."

"What! you an American and smoking in the presence of ladies?"

"He stopped smoking, but with very poor grace; and he looked as if he would like to eat me."

"He was of a different type from a man whom I met on a steamer in the English channel. I asked him to stop smoking, and he did so, with profuse apologies. I told him that I believed that tobacco dulls the moral sense, but he smiled at the idea."

"You furnish me a proof of my theory, sir," said I. "You were smoking when you ought not to have been—and you acknowledged it as soon as I called your attention to it. Tobacco dulls your moral sense."

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