

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN IN 1882.

BY J. C. CUTTER, M. D., KEN HOSPITAL, SAPPORO, JAPAN.

It is undoubtedly true that the cultivated people of the present time are more interested in Japan than in any other country as yet so little known. It has a civilization entirely different from that of the Occident and yet dissimilar to that of other countries of the Orient. Japan is proud of her former civilization, and yet, since 1868, she has made, and is making, great efforts to adopt and to assimilate the more salient and more adaptable modes of that of Europe. She is endeavoring to absorb and to make her own in the space of a few decades that civilization which has cost Europe centuries of struggle and effort. She does not imitate the slow and certain course followed by the Chinese, but her ruling classes have launched her boldly into the sea of modern effort and struggle, hoping that she can hold her way, and in the end attain a high position among the nations of the future.

In medicine, Japan enters the race furnished with the accumulated stores of knowledge and experience of the West. She has during the past quarter of a century employed able men from the West in her hospitals and at the centres of medical instruction — Nagasaki, Osaka, and Tokio. She has established a well organized, well equipped, department of medicine in the University of Tokio. She has received with alacrity the latest and best products of the mechanic's art to assist in investigation, instruction, and to aid in the amelioration of disorders admitting of surgical interference. She has had translated and published in a cheap form text-books on all the leading branches of the healing art. She has educated, both at home and abroad, a large number of men in English, in German, and in French, so that to them the medical literature of Europe and America is no longer a sealed book. Thus far Japan has only been receptive. It is yet too early to expect reliable and valuable work from her medical staff in advancing the cause of modern medicine.

DAI GAKU I GAKU BU, OR THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF TOKIO UNIVERSITY.

In 1871, Drs. Hoffmann and Miller of the Prussian service were employed by the Japanese Government to organize a medical school after the most approved Western ideas. A course of study — advanced and preparatory — was elaborated and presented to the ministry. The next year this received official approval, appropriations were made, books, apparatus, and means of illustration ordered in Europe, and work on the needed buildings commenced at once. Before the coming of Drs. Hoffmann and Miller, it had been the purpose of the government to employ the English language in the medical department. It was now determined that the language of the advanced course should be German. German professors and instructors for the several departments were imported, and at the same time twelve promising young men were sent to Germany at the government expense to study med-

icine and allied branches, and to fit themselves for positions in the faculty of the "I-Gaku-Bu." Thus equipped and provided for, the "I-Gaku" commenced its educational work in 1872 and 1873. In 1875 the faculties of the schools established at Nagasaki and Osaka under Dutch auspices were called to Tokio, and these provincial schools were abolished. In 1876 a new department was organized within the "I-Gaku" to give instruction according to Western methods in the Japanese language. In 1877 the new large and well arranged college buildings, the German planned hospital, the drug laboratory, and new accommodations for the growing out-patient department, all in Kaga Yashiki, were opened for purposes of instruction. In 1879 a large and commodious hospital, called "Shitaya Bio-in," was opened in Tokio for clinical instruction of the Japanese section of the school. The medical department of the University attracts the largest number of students. Thus in 1880 there was in the law, science, and literature sections, together, 238 students, and in the medical, 1040. In the former departments a conversational knowledge of English is demanded; in the latter, in the advanced division, German; in the second section, Japanese and Chinese; hence the medical department would naturally have the largest number of matriculants. However, there is a larger number of students in the German-speaking section of the "I-Gaku" than in any one of the English-language-speaking sections of the University.

THE GERMAN-LANGUAGE-SPEAKING SECTION OF THE
"I-GAKU."

To enter the preparatory department of this section, the student must be at least twelve years of age, must be well grounded in Japanese, must have commenced Chinese, and must have spent one year in the Foreign Language School, or have received an equivalent instruction. He (for no females are permitted to study in the University medical course) now enters upon a five years' course of German, a long course of Chinese and Japanese, a certain amount of Latin, as well as extended courses in mathematics, and elementary chemistry, physics, botany, and zoölogy. In this school there are annual examinations, all of which must be passed in due order. After passing a stringent written and oral examination in all the branches pursued, he is permitted to advance into the medical school proper. He continues German, and enters upon thorough study of chemistry, physics, zoölogy, and botany. Thus prepared he takes up and follows a *graded course* in all the branches of study required in the best medical schools of Europe. The instruction is given by recitations, by lectures, by demonstrations, by laboratory work, and by practical clinical work under the supervision of the instructors. This course extends over five years. There are annual examinations, and no student is permitted to advance until he is pronounced satisfactory in a majority of the studies of the year. If he fails in the May examination in certain branches, he is permitted to go up to that of November. At the end of the five or more years' course there is a prolonged oral, written, and clinical examination embracing all the branches of the course. In the final examination, the third failure in any branch admits of no re-examination. The degree granted is called "I-Gaku Shi," and its possession in Japan has a deeper, more valuable significance than the easily acquired M. D. of the majority of the American schools.

It carries with it a rank, a prestige unknown in the United States.

Thus far less than one hundred and fifty have received this degree. As soon as graduated a man is eligible to a government salary of one hundred and fifty yen per month, and may enter the army, navy, police, or home service. This is a very high salary in a country where the majority in the services receive less than thirty yen per month, where the chief medical officer of Yezo only receives two hundred yen per month, and the Medical-Inspector General of the Army draws but two hundred and fifty yen per month. Of the early graduates, a few of the favored men were sent to Germany, at the government expense, for a series of years to pursue advanced studies. The army and navy welcome the "I-Gaku Shi," but the majority prefer the civil service. Those in the latter service are sent to the principal Ken towns of the Empire to manage the hospital service and to act as medical advisers of the Ken officers. These medical men have an assured income, an enviable official rank, a social prestige, and a chance to advancement through transfers to larger and more eligible cities with the increased emoluments incident thereto. Private practice, except among the nobles and the wealthy merchants of Osaka and Tokio, is not remunerative. Most of the people go to the out-patient departments, receive gratuitous advice, and buy their medicines. It was the custom in old Japan, and is now almost universal, to pay the doctor not for his time, efforts, and skill, but for the drugs received. Then at the termination of the malady to send him a "Shinjo-mono" — as, a box of confections, a piece of lacquer, some food, a small roll of silk — as an expression of gratitude. Hence, as money is an article of necessity in modern Japan, all young men desire to enter the government service where the position is secure (for it is rare that a man is discharged for incompetency in Japan's service — he is only transferred to another place, retaining his rank and salary), and the salary certain.

JAPANESE-LANGUAGE-SPEAKING SECTION OF
"I-GAKU."

To enter this department the candidate must be at least eighteen years of age; must be able to pass a creditable examination in Japanese and Chinese composition, in mathematics through geometry, elementary chemistry, physics, botany, and zoölogy. The medical course is four years. The order of studies is similar to that of the German course, but the studies are not pursued so thoroughly or so extensively. There is more of lectures, note-taking, and text-book work, and much less of laboratory and clinical work, proportionally to the time, than in the German section course. At the end of the *second* year there are examinations in anatomy, histology, and physiology; of the *third* year in surgery, pathology, and therapeutics; and of the *fourth* year in obstetrics, practice, ophthalmology, and clinical work. Of the large numbers who enter this department, but few, comparatively, continue through the course. The majority attend the lectures and instructions for two or more years; spend much of their energies in the gayeties of Tokio life; do not attempt the examinations; secure a certificate of attendance; procure the title of "Kwan-I" (Chinese doctor), and then from the Ken officials gain permission to practice in a certain district. Such men are known among the better class of students, and the bet-

ter educated officials, as "Yabu," that is, Bamboo shoots.

In 1881 there was in the "Dai Gaku I-Gaku-Bu" of government cadets, 21; scholarship cadets, 100; private students, 1055. Total, 1176. During the years 1880 and 1881, 384 were admitted, 239 expelled, 13 died, and 99 were graduated (German and Japanese sections included). The staff consisted of German professors, 10; Japanese professors (Kojiu) 5; Japanese instructors (Jokiu) 6; dissectors and assistants (Kio-in) 15, and 16 clinical clerks in the hospitals. The government cadets are educated, housed, and clothed at the expense of certain departments of the government, as of army, navy, police, and are mostly to be found in the German section. The expulsions were almost entirely in the Japanese section, and were, in the main, for dissolute conduct, intemperance, and inattention to duties.

PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE.

On May 27, 1882, Fukuoka, Minister of Education, issued a notification destined to have an improving influence on medical education in Japan. Since the abolition of the Nagasaki and Osaka schools, an approximately thorough course of medical instruction could only be acquired at Tokio, and there only could the degree of "I-Gaku Shi" be attained. All students who could not study in Tokio were compelled to follow a desultory course of study in some provincial hospital, with attendant serious disadvantages. Such men could not receive a degree enabling them to advance to a lucrative government position. They could only secure a certificate from the Ken officials permitting them to practice certain branches of medicine in that prefecture, or Ken. Such medical men could rarely advance beyond a thirty yen monthly stipend. The expenses of the long journey, and of long residence in the capital, prevented the poor but ambitious students of the distant Kens from acquiring more and better instruction.

Summary of Mombu-Sho notification No. 4. Medical institutions may be established in the Empire according to the following regulations: The medical schools shall be of two classes: Class A — those which can give that amount and kind of instruction enabling its graduates to enter at once upon independent practice. Class B — those which can give only cursory instruction in medicine adapted to men of advanced age, or where it is impossible to establish a school of Class A. Each school must have a hospital connected therewith. Schools of Class A must give instruction in physics, chemistry, zoölogy, botany, anatomy, histology, physiology, pathology, surgery, obstetrics, hygiene, diseases of the eye, medical jurisprudence, and medical and surgical clinical work. The faculty shall consist of not less than three "I-Gaku Shi," from "Tokio Dai Gaku," or of men of as good scholarship as an "I-Gaku Shi," appointed under special permission of the Minister of Education. The course shall extend through four years; there must be thirty-two weeks of instruction annually, and there must be at least twenty-four hours' school exercises per week. Candidates for admission must be of excellent character, in good health, and at least eighteen years of age. They must pass satisfactory entrance examinations in Japanese and Chinese composition, in mathematics, and in elementary chemistry, physics, botany, and zoölogy. Schools of Class B shall give instruction in physics, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, therapeutics, surgery,

pathology, obstetrics, diseases of the eye, and bedside instruction. The faculty shall include at least one "I-Gaku Shi." The course shall extend over three years. The hours and weeks of instruction shall be the same as Class A. Candidates for admission must pass satisfactory examinations in Japanese and Chinese composition, arithmetic, and physics.

OKIYAMA KEN SCHOOL.

The hospital medical school at Okiyama, Ken of Bizen, near the Inland Sea to the west of Osaka, was the first one of the hospital schools to take advantage of this notification. In the future its graduates can practice in any part of the Empire without passing the Ken examination, as called for in the notification of 1876. This school has in its faculty four "I-Gaku Shi" and one graduate in pharmacy. It has a hospital of eighty-five beds. Upwards of two hundred students were present during the session of 1881-1882. These men come from the thickly populated country to the west and south of Kiyoto, from Kiushiu, and Shikoku. It is the most flourishing of the Ken Hospital Schools.

The Japanese medical press speak in enthusiastic terms of the May notification, and of the good which will result not only to the profession but to the people among whom a better educated class of practitioners will settle. The Chinese school of practitioners, though they have no school recognized by the government, and though their members are allowed to practice only under special rules of the Home Department, yet hold their own in point of numbers, but not their per cent., as regards the population. The class of practitioners having the merest smattering of knowledge of Western medicine is rapidly enlarging. The class of those who possess a fair preparation for medical work is steadily increasing, but that of those having the rank of "I-Gaku Shi" is very small and, proportional to the population, is increasing very slowly. Though the number of the latter class is small, yet are they having potent influence in Japan in the advance of education, of sanitation, and of the standard medical work.