II.

MODERN MEDICINE IN CHINA.

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"Western Medicine in Eastern Lands" is a very large subject indeed! Suppose I write of the United States' medicines that

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we most frequently use and in which the Chinese have great faith. Along the street the Chinese say that we are very good doctors in some lines, but fall far short in others! We learn from our patients and those who return wishing to purchase medicine, just what medicines are the most popular.

The chief call is for iodide of potassium, for they have learned its great value in a very common ill in this country, which previously was uncontrolled. We not only dispense, but have frequent calls for iodine liniment, sulfur ointment, epsom salts, bicarbonate of soda, vaseline, blue ointment, zinc preparations, silver nitrate, brown mixture, boracic acid, quinin, santonin, salol, salicylate of soda, washes of bichlorid of mercury and permanganate of potassa much used in all kinds of ulcers, etc., soda for burns, carbolated vaseline, lime water, olive oil and, of course, many others. If patients have been treated with any of these medicines and have been benefited, they immediately tell all their friends and thus create a great demand for them. In this list I have only mentioned those with which they are more or less familiar. They will come and ask, often in English, for these medicines and yet not want to let one know for what they wish to use them. We have thus learned that with them a little learning is a dangerous thing, and so have to keep our drugs from them, not only to keep them from doing harm but to keep our remedies from getting into disrepute.

That our practice of medicine has taken a firm hold on these people is shown by the fact that their young men are entering in large numbers the union medical schools after taking expensive preliminary educational courses, and these schools are entirely under foreign supervision. Indeed, I know of no medical schools in China excepting those which teach Western medicine exclusively.

They have great faith in our knowledge of surgery, bringing patients miles and miles to be operated on. A sample of the skill of the native surgeons is shown by a case that came under my care. The patient had a fatty tumor over the knee and the Chinese surgeon sharpened his razor and cut down thru it with one slash! He cut a good-sized blood vessel and the poor fellow was bleeding

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to death. The Chinese doctor's sons ran for me and I found the patient almost dead and the Doctor scared to about the same condition. I controlled the hemorrhage and removed him to our hospital. He recovered but in the meantime the Chinese Doctor was put in prison! I succeeded, after considerable trouble, in getting him released and he has been a firm friend and patron ever since.

Here in Hunan our work is all new and very different from the work in the seaports. It is more primitive and not so universally adopted. However, we are rapidly gaining the confidence of the people and have really much more work than we can do very carefully.

I am glad to hear that the doctors at home are interested in our professional success and hope the interest may continue to be manifested in the same gracious manner as the Academy manifests its interest.

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