

missionary for the enlightenment and temporal good of this people, in order to the yet more important and primary object of their conversion to the truth as it is in Jesus.

In 1852, Dr. Macgowan reports that the number of patients since the last report (1848) reached to 7,956. In the autumn of 1848, measles prevailed epidemically in Ning-po, from which, though not of a malignant type, several fatal cases occurred. This epidemic prevailed in the maritime districts of the east coast of China and throughout the Pacific coast, till it reached the Samoyeds, among whom it proved very fatal. A Russian captain reported that the measles had spread throughout many of the Russian colonies in Northern Asia, and carried off numbers of the inhabitants. The islands of the Pacific suffered severely from the same disease, and in the Sandwich Islands it was very fatal amongst the aborigines. Fevers also, of varied form, affected the region around Ning-po very extensively, in 1849. Cholera made its appearance in 1851. In its eastern progress this disease reached China through the Straits in 1820. During the summer of that and the following year, Ning-po, like other portions of the empire, suffered severely. Since that time, the disease has not prevailed epidemically, though few years pass without the occurrence of sporadic cases.

One gratifying circumstance connected with the prevalence of cholera, was, that great pains were taken by benevolent persons to make public those remedies that were considered best adapted to arrest the disease. Placards were posted in every quarter, giving directions for the treatment of the various forms of the malady.

All recommended, substantially, the same mode of treatment, which seems to have been taken from a small work on cholera by a physician of Kia-hing, Sutsze-mi. He states that on the first appearance of the disease, medical men took it for ordinary cholera, and treating it accordingly, signally failed: but observing that the disease arose from derangement of the three things—stomach, lungs, and kidneys, he reversed the practice, and employed remedies for warming and stimulating the vessels. He regarded the disease as arising from “morbific cold,” disturbing the harmony of the powers of the system. Others contended that “accumulated heat” destroyed the equilibrium subsisting between those powers, and while he relied on stimulants, they resorted to cooling remedies. His plan was, however, the more successful. To impart vital energy and warmth to the body, the juice of fresh ginger was given, to which various aromatics and bitters were added.

By way of preliminary, sternutatories were employed, and if the patient could be made to sneeze, he was thought to be in a more favourable condition than if insensible to such stimulants. Counter-irritants also were resorted to, composed of salt and garlic, which with moxa were applied over the abdomen; and for the same purpose, foot-stoves were used for the extremities, the feet and legs being rubbed and shampooed. Thus, despite their fanciful theories, the Chinese pursued the same therapeutic course, which in the West has been found most efficacious. By such means native practitioners afforded relief to many, but were powerless when treating the consecutive fever, and hence the

mortality was very great. This epidemic did not extend largely over the empire. It prevailed at Hang-chau several weeks before it reached Ning-po. The villages of the plain of Ning-po suffered most, affording another evidence to the correctness of the opinion that in this part of China the *cities* are the most healthy.

The fevers prevalent here are far more frequently met with in the rural districts than in the city. The filthy condition of Ning-po, its stagnant canals and other nuisances, would seem to fit it, like other Chinese towns, to be the focus of malaria. Yet, however unfavourable to longevity, this condition does not seem to create any peculiar liability to epidemic disease. The drainage of the cities is superior to that in rural districts, and the means of subsistence and of domestic comforts much greater. The most salubrious sites are generally found immediately adjacent to the cities, at a sufficient distance from the fields, more especially from the rice fields.

The sufferers from the use of opium were still attended to in the hospital, and by the means already alluded to many individuals were enabled to discard the evil habit, and were delivered from the thralldom of the drug.

Repeated attempts were made for leave to attend the inmates of the Ning-po prison, but as the authorities were uniformly unfavourable to the design, access to the prisoners could be obtained only under special circumstances. Enough was seen, however, of the place and its discipline, to show that it wanted nothing of the misery and wretchedness common to all Chinese prisons. No pen can adequately describe their hor-