

The FIGHT AGAINST the OPIUM EVIL

THE past few months have witnessed political changes in China that are fraught with grave import for the people of the most populous country on the globe. At the same time there has been working to a culmination another evolution in public affairs that holds almost as much significance for the inhabitants of the Orient as does the upheaval of the machinery of government. This late development is a crusade to free the Chinese, and, incidentally, other peoples of the world, from the bondage of the opium habit which has for so many years been a drag upon their intellectual and material progress.

We, as Americans, must feel an especial pride and interest in this breaking of the grip of the deadliest drug habit because it has been brought about largely through the efforts of the United States. Or, in other words, Uncle Sam set the ball rolling. At



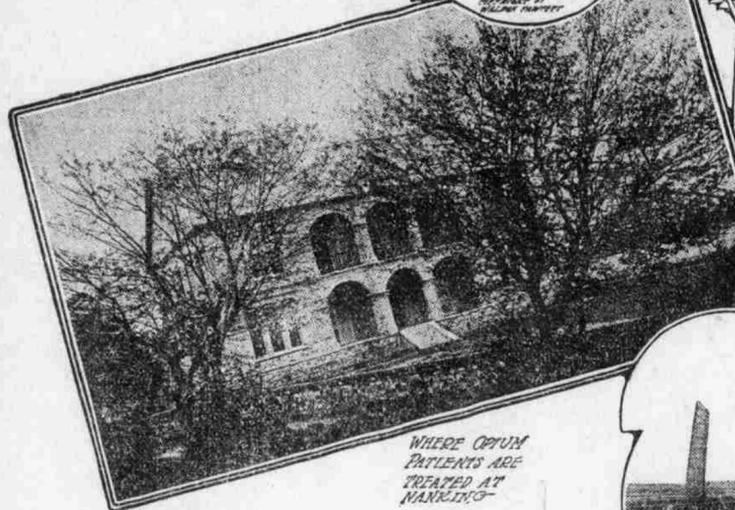
WHERE ANTI-OPIUM CONFERENCE WAS HELD



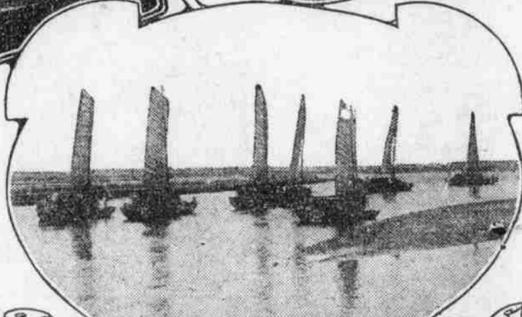
CHINESE SCHOOL WHERE OPIUM WAS PREACHED AGAINST



DR. SHEN



WHERE OPIUM PATIENTS ARE TREATED AT HANKING



TYPE OF VESSELS USED IN THE OPIUM TRAFFIC

first the movement simply had as its object the banishment of opium from China, but gradually the scope of the anti-opium "missionary work" expanded until it embraced the whole world—every section of the globe where the use of opium has become a habit—and finally within the past few months the fight against the evil has been expanded in scope until it embraces prohibitive or restrictive action not only against opium, but also against morphine, cocaine, and, in short, all habit-forming drugs.

The fight against the opium evil, with Uncle Sam as the chief aggressor, has been going on steadily for some years past but it is only now on the eve of complete success that it has come to attract attention from all classes of the community. From the time when Chinese began to settle in the United States, bringing with them, many of them, their love of opium smoking it was realized that the evil was one of the menace of which would sooner or later be brought home to our people—particularly those residing on the Pacific slope and in the western section of the country where the bulk of the Mongolians settled.

However, it was only after Uncle Sam came into possession of the Philippines, following the Spanish-American war, that our public men and government officials were thoroughly aroused to the necessity of grappling with the problem. In the Philippines our people found great numbers of Chinese who were confirmed opium smokers, and, worse yet, they were rapidly teaching the destructive habit to the natives of the islands. There was much agitation of the subject both in the Philippines and here in the United States and the upshot of the matter was that the congress of the United States passed laws prohibiting the importation of opium into the Philippines except for medicinal purposes. From that moment there was a marked improvement of conditions.

The example of Uncle Sam's action and the complete success which attended it, awakened China to her own need and gave hope of a solution. The progressive men of China were deeply moved by the spectacle of another nation (and one that had always been traditionally friendly to China) combating at the very doors of the Orient with an evil that was realized by all thinking men to be sapping the life blood of a large share of Asia's population. The result was a strong anti-opium movement in China and out of this grew a direct appeal to then President Roosevelt from representatives of missionary societies in the Far East and from commercial organizations and institutions in the United States. It was the plea of these various interests that the United States government, considering its historical attitude in regard to the opium traffic in the Orient, should take the initiative in assisting China to secure the prohibition of that traffic.

This was in the year 1904, but it was a couple of years later that definite plans were made for an international concert of action in the matter. In that year Bishop Charles H. Brent of the Philippines, who was, naturally, in a position to appreciate the havoc wrought by opium, wrote to President Roosevelt appealing to him "to promote some movement that would gather in its embrace representatives from all the countries where the traffic in and the use of opium is a matter of moment." Thereupon President Roosevelt had his secretary of state, Mr. Elihu Root, open up correspondence with all the powers

having possessions in the Far East to ascertain if it would not be possible to form a distinguished international commission that would study the opium problem as it then appeared in the quarter of the globe where it had proven the greatest menace, and would, further, report the wisest measures for bettering the situation.

It required a year and a half of letter writing, back and forth, before the governments concerned could be induced to meet each other on a common basis. In explanation of this reluctance it may be pointed out that a number of the countries, notably Great Britain, and her colonies, France, Holland and Siam, derive large revenues from the opium traffic, and in some instances opium production is a government monopoly. Should the traffic in opium be virtually abolished, as it is likely to be in time, these various powers stand to lose revenue to the enormous aggregate of one hundred million dollars a year. No wonder they hesitated. However, in the end the common cause of humanity triumphed and it was arranged that an international opium commission should be created.

This commission, which took up its work at the city of Shanghai, China, early in the year 1909, discussed all phases of the moral, eco-

nomical, scientific and political aspects of the opium problem, not only as existing in the Far East but throughout the world. The outcome of the gathering was the unanimous adoption of a series of recommendations in which the delegates and experts assembled, strongly urged that their respective countries take action in three matters, namely an overhauling by each nation of its own regulations with reference to the opium traffic; the adoption of measures for the suppression of opium smoking, and, finally, the enforcement of restrictions upon the manufacture and sale of morphine.

The experts of the different nations having agreed upon the measures that ought to be taken to curb the evil, it was up to the United States, she having inaugurated the project, to make the next move in the matter. This she did with no loss of time. Our officials wrote to the various powers suggesting that they get together and take action on the recommendations that had come from Shang-

hai. In other words, it was suggested that as a sequel to the earlier effort there should now be international co-operation for the placing of the production and traffic in opium under international law.

The culmination of the long fight is now in sight. An international conference was held recently at The Hague, the capital of the Netherlands, to arrange for measures that will put up the bars against opium and other habit-forming drugs all over the world. Many of the men who attended the Shanghai conference were appointed by their respective governments to represent them at The Hague. The power and significance of the two gatherings was vastly different, however. At The Shanghai conference those in attendance could only advise and recommend. At The Hague conference the delegates were empowered by their respective governments to agree upon definite measures. After prolonged sessions, measures were decided upon which, it is expected, will fully carry out and put into effect the objects of the conference. These measures will be reported to the various governments represented, to be followed by legislative action on the part of their law-making bodies putting into execution the regulations agreed upon. This is supposedly a mere matter of routine, as all the powers have given their promise.

Foremost of the regulations agreed upon are those for uniform national laws and regulations to control the production, manufacture and distribution of opium and its derivatives. Almost as important will be the regulation by the universal postal union of the transmission of opium through the mails. Going yet further in the direction of complete control will be the restrictions that are to be placed upon the cultivation of the poppy, from which opium is derived, and limiting the number of ports through which the drug may be shipped by opium-producing countries. There was adopted also uniform marks of identification for packages containing opium in international transit.

The nations that are interested in this world-wide crusade and were represented at the conference include the United States, China, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Russia and Siam. Some of the other powers, notably Austria-Hungary, were not directly represented because they are not much affected by the opium evil, but they have given assurance that they will abide by the regulations which have been agreed upon by the conference. When the international conference was first proposed, China showed her intense interest by appointing a strong delegation including such progressive men as Dr. Yen, who was educated in American colleges and is in sympathy with American ideas and ideals.

CALIFORNIA TREASURE STORY

The story of a wound received in the Civil war which sealed the hiding place of a fortune for more than half a century and of a strange trick of fate which cleared the hider's memory in the evening of life was brought to Los Angeles by the hider's son, J. K. Anderson of New Orleans, who is at the Van Nuys en route to the old placer mining fields of California, says the Los Angeles Herald.

Anderson's father joined in the gold rush and was one of the miners of the '49 days. He located a claim in Placer county, near Auburn and Newcastle. Within a year he had snatched from the river bottoms a fortune. Then the call of the south for volunteers reached him. He buried the gold beneath the adobe blocks of a tavern in the vicinity of his claim, strapped all the precious substance he could carry about his body and hurried to join the Confederate army.

Anderson says that his father was struck in an engagement with the Union troops by a bullet which tore open his scalp and robbed him of his memory for fifty years. During that time, the son says, the parent was like a child with all knowledge of the hiding place of the gold gone. Before he died, a year ago, his memory of the gold rush returned to him and he was living again in the past that preceded his part in the conflict.

It was during these last moments that the old man told his son and the mother where he had buried what he claimed was a fortune. The son is hurrying to unearth it if possible the buried treasure, Anderson said: "My father said he buried the gold under a corner of an old adobe tavern patronized by the miners in the early days. This tavern was in Long valley at a point halfway, I have learned, between the present towns of Newcastle and Auburn. I have learned through corre-

spondence that a family by the name of Scott occupies the tavern as a farmhouse and that the country around it is devoted to the raising of citrus fruits.

"No one has disturbed the original lines of the building. The adobe blocks are heavy. I have obtained permission from the owners to prosecute my search and will give them a

share of my findings. Otherwise I would have to buy the property."

Anderson is a civil engineer. He was engaged by the government for some time in work on the Panama canal, but has left his employment to search for the treasure which he maintains his father has hidden in the old placer mining fields of California.

Trained Nurse Who Snores

"In all those months I was in the hospital somebody ought to have warned me, I think," said the trained nurse, according to the New York Times. "Of course I had it from the folks at home that I snored a little, but I never took it seriously until I went on my first case. I found then that it is a serious matter for a nurse to snore."

"I took the case from a nurse whose own health had broken down. The patient was nervous and excited over the contemplated change, and that made my ordeal more severe; a brand new case of my own would have been much easier. Still, we got along fairly well together the first half of the night. He was a kindly man, and soon after midnight he insisted that I should try to get some sleep. I didn't think I'd catch a wink, but by and by I dozed off. It was a fatal sleep for me. The next morning the patient's sister told me about the snoring."

"James could not rest at all," she said. "I heard you in the next room." "Before night I was looking for another job. Of course I did not have to give up nursing entirely, but the hard cases, where I am re-

quired to keep awake every second, are open to me. All those soft snaps that give you a chance to sleep half the night are beyond the reach of the snoring nurse."

Unintentional Truth.

"The latest agony," said a spendthrift to his dissipated companion, "is the way I felt this morning. My wife asked me for a £10 note and I cut the matter short by telling her that it could not be done, for the simple reason that I had only a matter of 5 bob or so in my pocket."

"I knew you'd tell me that," she said, "and it's true, too." And as I looked up in amazement she added, "I looked in your pockets last night. I've got the £10 note."

"Fancy how I felt! But what could I do?"—London Tit-Bits.

Plausible.

"Braggs is up in Maine hunting. He writes me that he's shot the biggest bear on record." "Don't doubt it. It would have to be a monster for Braggs to hit it."—Boston Transcript.

POULTRY

TO KEEP LICE FROM POULTRY

One of Most Difficult Problems That Confronts Chicken Fancier—Proper Procedure.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

One of the most difficult problems which the poultry keeper has to meet is that of keeping his poultry houses and stock reasonably free from lice, mites and other external parasites.

In keeping a poultry plant free from lice there are two points of attack: One, the birds themselves; the other, the houses, nest boxes, roosting boards, etc.

In using any kind of lice powder on the birds themselves, it should always be remembered that a single application of powder is not sufficient. When there are lice present on a bird there are always unhatched eggs of lice ("nits") present, too. The proper procedure is to follow up a first application of powder with a second at an interval of four days to a week. If the birds are badly infested at the beginning it may be necessary to make still a third application. To clean the cracks and crevices of the woodwork



First Prize Black Cochon.

of houses and nests of lice and vermin a liquid spray or paint is probably the most desirable form of application.

A splendid lice powder may be made at a cost of only a few cents a pound in the following way: Take three parts of gasoline and one part of crude carbolic acid; mix these together and add gradually with stirring, enough plaster of Paris to take up all the moisture. The liquid and the dry plaster should be thoroughly mixed and stirred so that the liquid will be uniformly distributed through the mass of plaster. When enough plaster has been added the resulting mixture should be a dry, pinkish brown powder having a fairly strong carbolic odor and a rather less pronounced gasoline odor.

Do not use more plaster in mixing than is necessary to blot up the liquid. This powder is to be worked into the feathers of the birds affected with vermin. The bulk of the application should be in the fluff around the vent and on the ventral side of the body and in the fluff under the wings. Its efficiency, which is greater than that of any other lice powder known to the writer, can be very easily demonstrated by anyone to his own satisfaction. Take a bird that is covered with lice and apply the powder in the manner just described. After a lapse of about a minute, shake the bird, loosening its feathers with the fingers at the same time, over a clean piece of paper. Dead and dying lice will drop on the paper in great numbers. Anyone who will try this experiment will have no further doubt of the wonderful efficiency and value of this powder.

For a spray or paint to be applied to roosting boards, nest boxes or walls and floor of the hen houses the following preparation is used:—3 parts of kerosene and 1 part crude carbolic acid. This is stirred up when used and may be applied with any of the hand spray pumps or with a brush.

In both of these formulae it is highly important that crude carbolic acid be used instead of the purified product. Be sure and insist to the druggist on getting crude carbolic acid. It is a dark brown, dirty looking liquid, and its value depends on the fact that it contains tar oil and tar bases in addition to the pure phenol (carbolic acid).

Guineas in Winter.

The guinea fowl is a native of warm countries and has a natural fear of snow, so in the north when guineas are caught out in a snowstorm there is a good chance for trouble if we undertake to force them to walk through snow to the poultry house.

The guineas will take to flight rather than wade in snow and rather than light on the ground when covered with snow they will light in trees, or if there are no trees they will light on the tops of buildings.

It saves trouble to house the guineas as soon as it is apparent that snow will cover the ground and keep them housed until the storm is past.

Dressing a Duckling.

The manager of one of the largest duck farms claims that an expert can scald and dress a duckling in ten minutes.