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AMERICAN SURGERY IN CHINA.

EXCISION OF A TUMOR IN THE OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, UNDER THE CHARGE OF REV. DR. PARKER.

THE patient was a girl thirteen years old, of comparatively good health, very cheerful and affectionate in her disposition, but sadly disfigured by a large tumor protruding from one side of the head, presenting almost the appearance of a double-headed child. The tumor began a little above the right eye, and enlarging to about one fourth the size of the whole head, extended in front of the ear to a line with the mouth, exhibiting at once a case of much surgical delicacy and difficulty. It hung over the right eye so as entirely to depress the lid, and distort the position of the eye-brow, part of which apparently grew upon the swelling;

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and so rapid was its increase, that it attained two thirds of its present size within the last three months; and had it not been removed, it would probably soon have resolved itself into an issue, and eventually drained away the sufferer's life.

After mature consideration, Dr. Parker determined to extirpate it, and was happily confirmed in his decision by the advice of several of his medical brethren, whose assistance was generously given on the occasion. Yesterday morning was the time appointed for the operation, and in the presence of several gentlemen, it was successfully removed. This, so far as we know, is the first operation of the kind ever performed in Canton, by a foreign practitioner upon a native; and though we cannot thus early predict the ultimate result, yet from reasonable suppositions may we not infer that this striking specimen of "barbarian" skill, augmented as it is by almost daily exhibitions of medical charity and relief, will tend in no small degree to meliorate the prejudices, and remove the barriers which now exist to the free intercourse of nations with China.

I am most happy now to state, that the goodness of the Divine Physician has been most signal. The child rallied most happily from the shock of the operation. The wound healed by the first intention, no inflammation has attended, and the patient uniformly says, when asked, that she has no pain. She is cheerful and playful, as though nothing had occurred; or rather as though she felt herself relieved of a burden and delivered from a gloomy prospect.

Since operating upon this child, an adult Chinese has presented himself, with a tumor, suspended from below his ear and extending down his neck, which is full half as large as his head, and has been twenty-eight years in attaining its present magnitude. The patient otherwise enjoys perfect health; and though I have not yet determined upon the removal of it, I think it may be found practicable. Among my new patients, today, was a woman with a large cancer of the breast, which appears favorable for an operation. Cases of peculiar interest are constantly occurring. Eight hundred patients have been received since the 4th of November. The mere labor of prescribing for so many has not been trifling; and the *responsibility* and anxiety, which the physician can best appreciate, for the lives and health of those entrusted to him, have been as much as I am able to sustain.

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