

found three or four opium pipes, which were made use of occasionally in the course of the day's march. Tobacco, however, was principally made use of during the day, the opium being reserved till the evening, when they would generally commence after supper, and smoke until they could no longer put the pipe into their mouths.

As can readily be imagined, the habitual use of opium, at least as practised by the Chinese, cannot fail to produce the most injurious effects upon the constitution, still more so probably than that of ardent spirits. The peculiar languid and vacant expression, the sallow and shrivelled countenance, the dim and sunken eye, and the general emaciated and withered appearance of the body, easily distinguish the confirmed opium-smoker. The mind, likewise, soon participates in the general wreck of the body; and the unhappy individual, losing all relish for society, remains in a state of sottish indifference to everything around him but the deadly drug, now his only solace, which sooner or later hurries its victim to an untimely grave.

The most inveterate opium-smoker that came under our observation during a journey of two months through the interior of the country, was the head policeman under whose charge we crossed from the island of Hainan to the mainland of China. This individual, who was evidently an old stager, went through the operation with great neatness and dexterity, commencing soon after he came on board the junk which conveyed us across the strait (about five in the afternoon); he continued without intermission till midnight, when tired with observing him, I fell asleep.

The refuse of the pipe is likewise much prized, especially where a superior specimen of the drug has been made use of, and is generally the perquisite of one of the servants, who forms it into pills, by mixing it with a little oil, to which he treats himself while his master is in a state of oblivion.

The poppy is said to be extensively cultivated in some of the southern provinces of China, but during a journey of nearly six hundred miles, embracing the whole extent of Hainan, and part of the provinces of Quang-see and Quang-tung, we never met with a single specimen.

## UNDILUTED CREOSOTE IN BURNS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—It has been my intention for some time to send you a short communication on the use of undiluted creosote in burns, but I have delayed doing so in the expectation that I might be able to try the remedy in a greater number and variety of cases, so as to obtain an estimate of its real value. In

the 22nd Number of *THE LANCET*, however, there is a communication from Dr. Mitchell of Dublin, on the subject, in which the author requests information from other members of the profession who may have used it, and in consequence of this I shall state shortly the result of my experience.

About two years ago I accidentally dropped some burning sealing-wax on my hand; I removed it as quickly as possible, and applied to the surface a drop of creosote from a bottle which happened to be beside me; it afforded immediate relief, and in less than five minutes the pain was gone. No sensible vesication took place, but in a few days the cuticle peeled off, and left a dry, reddish surface beneath. A short time after this one of my servants burned the palm of her hand by laying hold of a hot iron; in a few minutes creosote removed the pain, and I heard nothing more of it. I have used it in ten or a dozen similar cases, and I have always found it remove the pain in a very short time. The effects I had observed induced me to bring the subject before the Medical Institution of Liverpool (as I find by the minutes), on the 1st of April, 1841, in the hope that such members as had opportunity might give the remedy a trial. I have had no experience of its use in severe injuries, and on this point I can bear no testimony, but in the common domestic burn or scald it has appeared to me so useful that I have recommended its being kept in families for the purpose of immediate application. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN SUTHERLAND, M.D.,  
Honorary Physician to the  
North Dispensary.

Liverpool, Feb. 28, 1842.

P.S.—The best way to apply the creosote I have found to be to brush the surface over with a hair pencil dipped in the liquid, and to renew the application as often as may be necessary; part of the creosote is absorbed, and the cuticle should be kept moistened till the pain is relieved.

## NEW OBSTETRICAL INSTRUMENT, THE KEPALEPSALIS.

By WILLIAM CAMPBELL, M.D.,  
Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons,  
Edinburgh, &c. &c. &c.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—When I inform you that the instrument which bears the above designation is considered by the profession here the most important addition that has for many years past been made to our obstetric inventions, I feel confident that you will give the following description and brief observations regarding it a place in your valuable Publication.

In the operative department of midwifery, a mechanical power calculated to reduce the