

The transition from ancient to modern ideas among the Chinese in Formosa: from the belief in the old empirical folk-lore of the East to a Trust in the scientific methods of the West. This transition, not yet Complete. Has been assisted to a great extent by the establishment of Japanese modern hospitals and by the restrictions enforced on the Practitioners of the old school by the ruling power. While thus Enlightening the people's minds, the Japanese have attracted comparatively few Chinese in-patients, partly because there are few, if any, free Beds in the Government hospitals-the fees charged being for the average Chinaman absolutely prohibitive---but chiefly because of the Christian kindness which the patients meet with in our mission hospitals, And which they thoroughly appreciate.

The result of this has been that we have suffered badly from over Crowding. The numbers of in-patients in Tainan have grown from 739 In 1901 to 2,400 in 1907, and to these must be added the very large Number who have been turned away for want of room.

The transition from the old to the new ideas is attended by some Serious results, sometimes almost amusing. A short while back we had In one of the male wards two patients in adjoining beds, the one suffering From the results of the old superstitions, the other from too radical an Adoption of new methods. The first was a man in the thirties whose

Old father had been taken very ill. Exactly what from the sickness took I do not know, but the remedy demanded was a taste of human flesh. The dutiful son therefore took a hatchet, and chopped off his little finger To satisfy his father's needs. Having fulfilled this act of devotion to the Gods of the old regime, he came to the hospital to have the stump of His little finger healed. His sacrifice was in vain, and the man had to Leave in a few days to attend the obsequies of his aged parent. Next to This man in the ward was a patient with some chronic disease of the eye. He had heard that the modern treatment of inflammation of the eye was By antiseptic washes, not by the plastering on of filth or the puncture with Bamboo thorns, which the practitioners of the old school held. He had Further learnt that a wash of a weak solution of carbolic acid was used By some Western-taught dispenser for cases such as his. Not content With this, our friend thought the matter out, and came to the conclusion That the efficacy of the remedy would vary directly with its strength, and,

acting logically on this conclusion, he applied some pure carbolic acid to his eyes. He lost much of the vision of one eye, but really suffered less than I should have expected from the treatment.

### A HOSPITAL ROUNSD.

It is difficult to know how to convey to the mind of friends in England