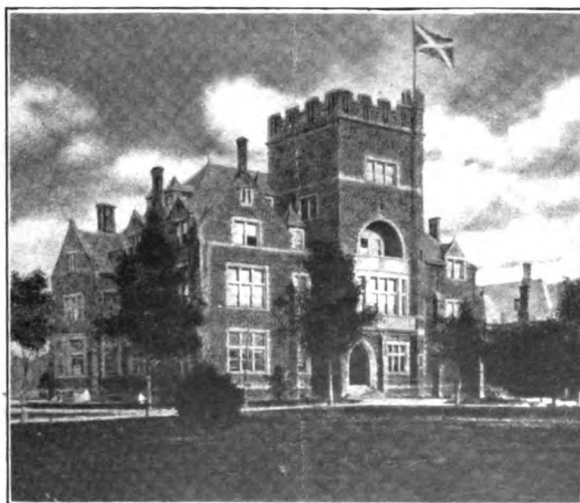


# THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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DECEMBER, 1912



Watts Hall, Union Theological Seminary



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FOREIGN  
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CHRISTIAN  
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## SOME KOREAN "CURES"

REV. L. TATE NEWLAND.

**A**T LAST I have discovered that America is not the only country that has quack doctors, but out here in Korea they are thick and thriving. While we have no Dr. Wiley to put them down, still I believe sentiment in time will drive them out. Lest some enterprising American should adopt their methods, I am going to tell you just a few of their cures, so that you may be on your guard:

The one great cure all is the chim or needle. This looks like a big darning needle, and is all the way from three to eight inches long. The quacks here seem to go on the theory that there runs through the body air channels or flues, and when a person gets sick there is some foul air in one of these flues, and the only cure is to make a hole for this air to escape through, the skill comes in knowing just where to put the needle in, for it would never do to stick the wrong flue. These are a few of the remedies an old Korean told me were very efficacious:

For diarrhea and nausea, stick a needle in each wrist and at the base of each thumb, also in each ankle and at the base of each great toe, and the cure will be immediate and complete. No matter if you have tried many other remedies and the doctors have despaired of your life, this is a cure that never fails. The praises this old man sung of this method reminded me of a Peruna advertisement.

If the face becomes partly paralyzed on one side so the eye and mouth try to meet, thus spoiling the looks and running the chances of getting married, a needle run in just below the ear on the other side will cause such intense pain that the attempt to squint the other way will pull the face straight.

For billiousness and constipation, due to sedentary habits, a large needle run well into the thigh will produce sufficient exertions to overcome any such illnesses. I do not personally guarantee any of these, but you can all try them if you wish.

But now for the sadder part. I asked about amputations, knowing they didn't have anaesthesia. This is the way that is done in this enlightened twentieth century in a country that was hoary with age when Christ was born. The cutting off of a finger or a hand is a comparatively simple matter. The offending member is laid on a block, and while several men hold the victim, a quick blow from a big knife does the work. The bone is never cut back, but the wound is rubbed with something to stop the blood and let get well the best way it can. It is a little more trouble to amputate a leg, but that can be done, too. First, the limb is tightly bandaged above the place. Then a Korean grass chopper, which is nothing but a big blade fastened at one end to a block and then pushed down by the foot through the grass, is prepared. A heavy stone is tied to the free end, and it is raised and set on a trigger. Then the leg is thrust under the knife or guillotine and the trigger jerked away—and one scream, and the work is done. A lot of stuff is rubbed on to stop the bleeding, and that is all. The wonder is, that sometimes they actually live through it.

For a broken bone they rub the place with a preparation of copper, wrap it in willow bark, and then feed the patient n copper, and after awhile the bone sets, though not always in the original place, but a little miscalculation like that cannot be laid to the copper, a spirit probably tampered with the work.

I want the doctors of our Church to know that over 12,000,000 people live and die under these conditions and infinitely worse spiritual quackism. Can you not see a need and a place to invest your life to greater advantage that perhaps it now is? These people are sick in body and soul, and they are pleading for some one to come over and relieve them. We need a Dr. Wiley and a Calvin combined in one man. Pray, give, come.

*Kwang-ju, Korea.*