

Seoul had almost an international complication the other day over one of its servants, who peeped over the walls of a noble to look at the girls. The magistrate served his dinner in brass bowls. These are used almost entirely for cooking and eating in Corea, and the spoons are of brass, and also the spittoons and other unmentionable articles. Every high official carries his spittoon with him, and each man has a knife and chopsticks of his own, which are so made that they fit into one another, the chopsticks being fastened to the side of the knife. The meals are served on little individual tables, about a foot high and not more than fourteen inches in diameter. In most cases I was brought a bowl of charcoal and an iron pot, and was compelled to do my own cooking. The servant would get down on his knees and fan the charcoal into a blaze, sprinkling the chicken with its ashes in the attempt. Once or twice I tried to get Pak to do the cooking, but upon his asking me as to how much sugar he should put into the chicken soup, I lost faith in his culinary ability. In one or two villages we could not buy chickens at all on account of a recent cholera epidemic. The laws of the country are such that no animal food can be sold during cholera, and in most places we could get nothing but a very coarse rice.

PAPER RAIN COATS.

During the great part of this trip through the country the rain came down in torrents, and we had to cover our baggage with oiled paper in order to keep it from being soaked. The Korean paper is all made by hand. It is about as thick as blotting paper, but it is as tough as leather, and it costs about five cents a sheet, each sheet being about the size of this newspaper. When oiled, it makes a splendid waterproof cloth, and I had a circular or cloak of yellow oiled paper, which I tied around my neck and which hung to my feet. My pony was not much bigger than a Newfoundland dog, and it almost covered him. "General" Pak and our gorgeous servants had similar coats, and our hats were covered by cornucopias of this same oiled paper, which entirely protected them from the water. I noted that the inside lining of my coat was covered with Korean characters, and I asked Pak what these were. He said the paper had been used by the office-seekers in writing their essays for the king in the civil service examinations, which were held once or twice a year in the grounds of the palace, and he told me how the cabinet ministers make a nice thing out of selling these rejected examination papers. All the appointments are supposed to be made through such examinations. The office-seekers have to write their essays in poetry, and they don't know the subject until they are on the ground. Each line must be just so long, and I think that twenty-six verses make up a poem. The fellow who turns out the best jingle is supposed to get the best office, though there is undoubtedly a great deal of fraud in the apportionment, and bribery and intrigue are common. I afterward saw these examination papers everywhere, and used for all sorts of purposes. I slept in some rooms which were carpeted with them, the paper being oiled and plastered down on the stones. It made a beautifully polished and not picturesque looking carpet, and it was not

affected by the heat of the flues beneath it.

HOW THE COREANS SHOE HORSES.

It is almost impossible to give a good idea of Corea. Everything is so different from anything we have in America. Take the horseshoeing, for instance. One of our ponies had to be shod, and another time we put shoes on the bull which carried the baggage. The pony was first thrown on the ground, and his four legs were tied together so that he couldn't possibly kick. Then the blacksmith pounded hoop-iron shoes on his feet with a rude iron hammer. It was the same with the bull, though one man had to sit on his head while he was being shod. The iron seemed to be very good, and it comes from the mines in the northern part of the country. The tools of the country are made of it, and the farming tools are very ingenious, the three and four-pronged hoes being quite as good as anything we have in America. They were making tools in this blacksmith shop, and all the tools and plows are made by hand. The blacksmith had a rude bellows, which was worked by a boy, who stood on a see-saw, and by moving up and down pumped the fire into a blare. In other places I saw bellows which boys worked by pulling a stick in an out like that of a squirt-gun and everything is rude in the extreme. Sometimes horses are shod by being strapped up to poles so that only two or three feet can rest on the ground, and the band which goes around the belly holds the horse up while he is shod.

ALASKA VS. COREA.

I saw many evidences in my tour through Corea of a relationship which seems to exist between our American Indians and the Coreans. The probability is that some of these people made their way to the north, and crossed the Bering Strait into Alaska. The cheekbones of the Coreans are high, and I saw many faces which made me think of our Indians. They are, of course, far more civilized and better educated, and they are a higher type than the savages of the West. Outside of each town I found rows of wooden posts which "General" Pak told me were generals stationed there to keep out the spirits. These posts had hideously carved heads upon them, made in fantastic representation of the human face. They looked very much like the totem sticks which you find in front of every Alaskan house, and I found other similarities here and there. In my tours through interior China I saw many Indian faces, and I met Tartars who looked very much like the noblest of our Indian chiefs. It is a curious thing, by the way, that the Japanese look much like the Mexican Indians, and the ethnologists may find a very interesting study in tracing out the connection and the origin of these races. The complexion of the Coreans is different in different parts of the country, largely due, I suppose, to exposure. The gentlemen of Seoul have skins of a delicate cream, and I saw some in which the roses came out and tinted the cheeks. The laborers in the field are as bronzed as our Indians, and some of the coolies at the seaports are as black as the negro. I saw many noses that were almost flat, and the cheekbones, in all cases, were high. I was surprised at the difference in the faces according to rank and condition, and this difference

exists not only in Corea, but also in Japan and in China. The higher classes of the three peoples have refined, intelligent faces. Many of the gentlemen of Corea have narrow, high foreheads, and you see every type of life on the streets of a Korean city that you do in America. There is the rich official who swells about and puts on airs. There is the scholar who evidently burns his midnight oil, and there is the keen, calculating trader who watches his "whittling" business quite as well as our merchants do their large establishments. The men have slight beards, and their whiskers do not seem to grow until after they are thirty. "General" Pak had a mustache which made me think of the old comparison of a dude's mustache to a base ball nine. There were nine hairs on each side, with one in the middle for umpire. He caressed these often, and also the stray curly little hairs which decorated his chin, and one day he said: "I love my whiskers; I think they grow very much."

THE JAILS.

Connected with all of the magistrate establishments I found jails, and there were paddles and stocks scattered about. These are used very freely to squeeze money out of the people, and a magistrate has really great power over his subjects. The jails were about eight feet square, and they were closed with doors much like those of a cowshed. There is a hole in the door about as big as a dinner plate, and in this the food is put for the prisoners. The scribes do the padding, and the people are squeezed out of all their surplus cash. In the trip across the country I saw signs of poverty everywhere, but no starvation. The people were good-natured, lazy and shiftless. They have no incentive to work, for if they get a little money ahead and the magistrates find it out, a charge is trumped up against them and they have to give up a portion of it to the officials. The Japanese will attempt to reform all this. They will organize, if possible, a good government, and property rights will be made safe. I believe that the people have the elements requisite to the making of a strong nation, and that from now on they will steadily improve. The change will not be immediate, for centuries of shiftlessness cannot be repaired in a night, but they have a rich country, and they will begin to develop it as soon as they find that the results of their labor will not be taken from them, and that they can permanently better their condition.

Frank G. Carpenter

PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES.

Pruning is an operation of vast importance in the management of trees, and the principles upon which it is founded must be clearly understood before complete success in fruit culture can be obtained.

Plants left to nature maintain a well balanced reciprocal action between their branches and roots; and every branch, bud or leaf that is removed must exercise an influence either injurious or beneficial, and no one should attempt to remove branches unless they