

only very shortly gone out of general use amongst Englishmen ; a rudiment of the English pigtail still exists on our court dresses, and footmen of Royal state carriages wear a shortened pigtail still, on certain occasions at least.

The women present at Chinese banquets, such as that described, sit behind the chairs of the men, and receive no share of the luxuries, but are supplied with dried melon seeds, in the cracking and extraction of the kernels of which they occupy their time.

Whilst at Canton, I visited the shop of a wholesale Chinese Chemist and Druggist, in order to try and select specimens of Dragons' bones, which are, in Chinese Medicine, a highly-prized specific for certain diseases. The wholesale dealer, whose warehouse was very large and full of Chinese medicines in bulk, had no "Dragons' bones and teeth" in stock, but I bought a few specimens from retail druggists who sell them by weight.

The "Dragons' teeth and bones" consist of the fossil teeth and bones of various extinct Mammalia of tertiary age, such as those of *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, a Mastodon, an Elephant, a Horse, two species of *Hippotherium*, two species of Stag, and the teeth of a large Carnivorous animal.\*

The drug is imported into Japan, and I saw samples exposed in a collection of *Materia Medica* at the Kioto Exhibition.

The chief interest in the "Dragons' bones and teeth" seems to me to be that they explain the origin of the Dragon itself, and very possibly of other mythical animals. All mythical animals have a strong foundation in fact and a developmental history. In most instances, no doubt, the mythical animal is derived from a traveller's description, or a description passed on from mouth to mouth. From this eventually an artist has drawn a picture of the wonderful animal, and this has become the stereotyped representation of the beast, and has been handed down with successive embellishments.

The story of the Argus no doubt arose from a description of the Argus pheasant or peacock. The Dugong (not the Manatee) was long ago shown by Sir Emerson Tennant to have given rise to the story of the Mermaid. No doubt the original Mermaid was a black beauty, and only became white-skinned as the story travelled westwards.

\* For a description of a collection of these objects, by Prof. Owen, see "Quart. Journal of Geological Soc.," 1870, p. 417.

See also D. Hanbury, "On Chinese Materia Medica," p. 40. London, 1862.

Swinhoe refers to a collection of Dragons' bones in "Chinese Zoology," Proc. Zool. Soc., 1870, p. 428.