

The use of paint as an ornament in China and Japan seems to me to be of considerable interest. In both countries the women regularly paint their faces when in full dress, of which the paint is a necessary part. The painting is entirely different in principle from that in vogue in Europe. The paint is not put on with any idea of simulating a beauty of complexion which might be present naturally, or which has been lost by age. The painted face is utterly unlike the appearance of any natural beauty.

An even layer of white is put on over the whole face and neck, with the exception, in Japan, of two or three angular points of natural brown skin, which are left bare at the back of the neck, as a contrast. After the face is whitened, a dab of red is rubbed in on the cheeks, below each eye. The lips are then coloured pink with magenta, and in Japan this colour is put on so thickly, that it ceases to appear red, but takes on the iridescent metallic green tint of the crystallized aniline colour.

In modern Japanese picture-books the lips of girls may sometimes be seen to be represented thus green. I suppose the idea is that such thick application of paint shows a meritorious disregard of expense. It is curious that the use of aniline colour should have so rapidly spread in China and Japan. In China at least such was not to be expected; but it seems to have supplanted the old rouge, and it is sold spread on folding cards, with Chinese characters on them, at Canton and in Japan.

This form of painting the face seems to be exactly of the same nature as savage-painting, and possibly is a direct continuation of it. It is like the painting of our clowns in pantomimes. In China, the faces of men seem not to be painted at the present time, either on the stage or elsewhere; but in Japan, actors in certain plays are painted on the face with bright streaks of red paint, put on usually on each side of the eyes. The kind of painting is exactly that of savages.

It is a curious fact that this form of painting, surviving in adults on the stage, is still used elsewhere for the decoration of young children. It is quite common to see Japanese children on festive occasions, when elaborately dressed by their parents, further adorned with one or two transverse narrow streaks of bright red paint, leading outwards from the outer corners of their eyes, or placed near that position.

Such a form of painting possibly existed in ancient times in China. When a man of distinction was buried in China in former times, a certain number of servants were buried with him. Now, figures made of pasteboard and paper, about 3 feet