

operator travel rapidly along the lines, and leave them almost as fine as those sketched with the brush.

For sharp curves, handles with only two needles are used. For shading, handles with needles set in a variety of forms are employed, suited to producing broad flat tints, or, for example, pointed or rounded scales of dragons or fish. For the black parts of the design, Indian ink is exclusively used; it looks bluish when under the skin. Bright red is produced with vermilion. A madder-colour is also used, and sometimes a yellow.

So rapidly is the work done that an elaborately finished design of a dragon or Japanese girl covering all the front of the forearm will be completed in a couple of hours. Very little pain is caused by the process, and not any or a little scarcely perceptible bleeding. The area tattooed is slightly inflamed subsequently, but not so much as to cause inconvenience of any kind, and it becomes quite healed in eight or ten days.

The results produced are astonishing in their softness, their correctness and delicacy of outline and minuteness of detail; and very far surpass those attained in tattooing by any other race. In a representation of a fish or dragon every scale is separately shaded, often with two strengths of shading, and in birds every feather is separately finished. In some cases large figures on the backs and shoulders of coolies are made to stand out in relief by means of an even dark shading, extending over the whole background. The artists recommend themselves to Europeans, by each asserting that he is the man who tattooed the Duke of Edinburgh.

With regard to gestures and expressions of the Japanese, I was struck by the entire absence of any gesture accompanying affirmation. A Japanese says "he," which means "yes," without moving the head at all or making any other sign. In negation the hand is sometimes shaken across the body with the fingers hung down. On receiving a present of money or payment, or a cup of saki, the hand is carried up with it to the forehead as a gesture of thanks. In salutation, or as an expression that a person feels honoured by the condescension of another, a curious half sucking half hissing noise is made by drawing in the breath with the lips partly closed, as if in sipping a fluid.

Large waxwork exhibitions are very popular in Japan. The figures are far better executed than in Europe, and photographs of the faces of them would supply most perfect material for studying the facial expressions of the various emotions.

In some of the theatrical books figures are given of the