

The illustrations in many of the Japanese Zoological books are very interesting to a naturalist and remarkably complete. Even Land Planarians (*Bipalium*) are figured in some of them.

In a book in my collection, representing the doings of the Ainos, the Ainos are represented as hunting Seals, or Sea Otters, with bows and arrows from canoes. Some of the men are shown as provided with foxes' brushes tied by strings to the ends of short rods. The foxes' brushes are being caused to dance about on the surface of the water as a lure to the Seals, who are following them in a shoal. Seals, or Sea Otters, must be attracted by lures of this kind, though it seems most improbable that they should. The figure almost certainly represents an actual occurrence.

I often visited the Japanese theatres. Besides the ordinary stage there is a second stage, consisting of a narrow platform, which lies on the left side of the audience, and extends from the side of the main stage, the whole length of the theatre, to a point close to the entrance door. Actors go round to the door behind the box seats, and appearing at the end of the long platform, approach the stage along it, acting their parts as they go.

In this way journeys are acted. A man may be represented as on a journey home, and at the same time his family are seen awaiting his return on the main stage, and he may be waylaid and murdered, for example, on the way; two separate but connected scenes being acted at once.

It is a curious fact, which I have not seen mentioned elsewhere, that the customary drink of Japanese women is simple hot water. I imagined that the Japanese were the only race that drink hot water; but I have lately been told, to my surprise, that it is the customary beverage of some old women in England. Hot water is also a common drink among the Chinese.

The ship left Japan on June 16th for Honolulu. Notwithstanding all that has been written on Japan, the country and its people still remain almost as great a source of interest and as good a field for investigation as does European civilisation to the educated Japanese themselves. The English and German Asiatic Societies at Japan, showing, as they do, a most remarkable activity, and constantly producing papers of the greatest value and interest in all branches of inquiry, have still probably the most fascinating field of research in the world before them.

The Sandwich Islands, July 27th to August 19th, 1875.—The ship reached Honolulu on July 27th, after an unsuccessful dredging between the Islands of Oahu (pronounced with stress