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## THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHINA TO THE SCIENCE AND ART OF MEDICINE<sup>1</sup>

### I. INTRODUCTION

FOR one who, from his medical infancy upwards, has been nourished on the teachings of Keen; who has paid homage to the personality and life of Weir Mitchell; who has seen Hobart Hare's writings translated into Oriental languages and has used them as text-books in his own classes; who has seen Chinese students become as devoted as those of Philadelphia to the radiating thought of Da Costa and others in the Jefferson faculty; for such a person to stand in the presence of a Jefferson audience and speak of a distant land might seem beside the mark, were it not that I rejoice to-day in this opportunity—especially since I have now become a son of Jefferson—to add my tribute of regard and gratitude to the teaching and life of the men on the great roll of honor of this college and to the wisdom and foresight of its trustees.

We are here to consider for a few minutes the essential unity, in development and maturity, of the medicine of the eastern and the western world. We do well to admit our indebtedness to a land that till recently had seemed an *ultima Thule* to many of us.

### II. THE MEDICAL ANCESTRY OF OUR PRESENT CIVILIZATION

Will you travel with me to Peking, and make your way to the Forbidden City? There, in a temple within the precincts of the "Great Medical Court," we shall find gilded statues of three emperors, honored by all Chinese as the founders of their national system of medicine.

The two at our right are Shen Nung and Huang Ti. Even the simple-minded peasant knows that "Shen Nung sampled a hundred herbs." From the time he came to the throne (about B. C. 2737), we are told that he spent a portion of each day in tasting botanical specimens. No wonder he is acclaimed as "Father of Medicine"!

Next to Shen Nung is the seated figure of Huang Ti, who began to reign in B. C. 2696. How little he realized that the "Canon of Internal Medicine," which is attributed to him, would become the final medical authority for China's four hundred millions for four thousand years.

<sup>1</sup> Commencement address at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, June 1, 1923.

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