

DR. BERTHOLD LAUFER

American scholarship has suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. Berthold Laufer on September 15. His writings on his many researches in the fields of anthropology, ethnology, and Oriental archaeology and literature are a legacy of permanent value. We can now but regret his many planned but still unwritten works. In honoring his memory, however, we wish to emphasize not only his eminence as a scholar but also as a man—modest, kindly, and gentle, and a true friend.

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THE YOUTH OF VACCINATION DRIVING OUT  
THE DEMON SMALLPOX

The Japanese colorprint by Katsugawa Shuntei which is reproduced on page 249 is from the collection of the Field Museum, Chicago. It is of great interest because there are practically no medical pictures in Chinese art, although many medical books in China contain woodcuts portraying surface characteristics of pathological phenomena which are, however, of no artistic merit. In Japan there seem to be a few exceptions of which this print is one.

The devil on the right of the picture, designated by the explanatory label as "really the devil, the spirit of smallpox," is escaping from the young genius, "the youth of vaccination, Holland being the land of his origin," who is riding on a cow's back and chasing him with a long spear. Here is a new deity, conceived of shortly before 1850, of foreign origin, yet represented in a Japanese style—as one of those joyful, muscular lads who bestow bliss on mankind and who are often found in the retinue of the Buddhist or Taoist gods. The smallpox devil is a typical Japanese *oni*, "only covered with a fur apron and gaiters, of red skin-color, with claws on hands and feet." Here is a beautiful illustration of an old and honored traditional type used to express a new and imported idea.

The inscription by Sosai Setto, spread over the upper part of the picture, relates that formerly "only inoculation was known; that it commenced in China under the Emperor Jen-Tsung (1023-63) of the Sung dynasty and consisted chiefly of administering the virus into the nostrils; that of the various methods of vaccination the latest and best was discovered in Holland by Edward Jenner, 1804-17. This error is due to the fact that the only knowledge of Europe at that time was derived from contact with the Dutch East India Company.) After a brief description of Jenner's discovery by transferring cowpox to a baby's arm, whereupon all the people of Holland were operated upon, and the new method was then introduced into China where it was compared with the old methods. When the physicians and people of China found that there was no better way than the new method of vaccination, they had all reasons for it expounded in a book which was distributed throughout China and then sent to Japan. Afterwards all nations adopted this method, and the old fashions were abolished."

Further details concerning the introduction of vaccination into the Far East can be found in the article on this subject by Dr. Laufer in the September issue of the *Open Court*, 1911.