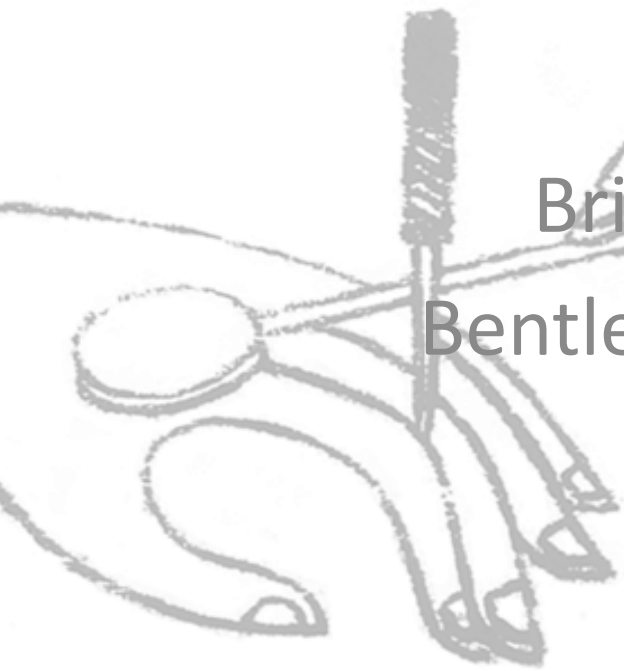


打鍼之圖

Survey of the Modern Histories of Chinese and Japanese Acupuncture

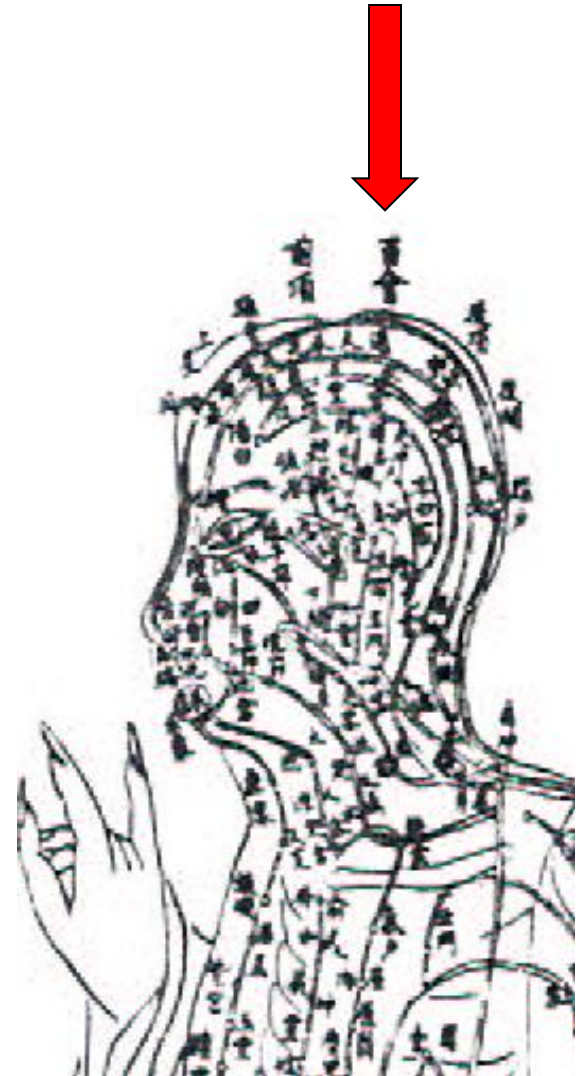
Bridie Andrews Minehan
Bentley University History Dept



者よ榮といふ氣ハ血道の外へうもて
かろくもてうもて血ハ筋の底へ流れぬ
者よ氣ハ外へうもて血ハ筋の底へ流れぬ
氣ハ外へうもて血ハ筋の底へ流れぬ
肌肉ハ外へうもて血ハ筋の底へ流れぬ

Yizong jin jian: The Golden Mirror of Medicine (1742)

- *Bai hui* (GV20) treats unconsciousness from being 'struck by wind' (sudden onset of hemiplegia, deviated eyes/mouth, and impeded speech), and also treats epilepsy and child fright disorders; Also for loss of large intestine *qi* downwards causing prolapse of the anus, as it lifts and supplements the body's *yang qi*.



JAMA. 1998 Nov 4;280(17):1518-24.

NIH Consensus Conference. Acupuncture. (Held in 1997)

CONCLUSIONS: Acupuncture as a therapeutic intervention is widely practiced in the United States. While there have been many studies of its potential usefulness, many of these studies provide equivocal results because of design, sample size, and other factors. The issue is further complicated by inherent difficulties in the use of appropriate controls, such as placebos and sham acupuncture groups. However, **promising results have emerged, for example, showing efficacy of acupuncture in adult postoperative and chemotherapy nausea and vomiting and in postoperative dental pain.** There are other situations such as addiction, stroke rehabilitation, **headache, menstrual cramps, tennis elbow, fibromyalgia, myofascial pain, osteoarthritis, low back pain, carpal tunnel syndrome,** and asthma, in which acupuncture may be useful as an adjunct treatment or an acceptable alternative or be **included in a comprehensive management program.** Further research is likely to uncover additional areas where acupuncture interventions will be useful.

History of Acupuncture in Late Imperial China



A representation of a Ming dynasty bronze model complete with internal organs (and a door at the back) was coated in wax and filled inside with water. If the student's needling was correct, he pushed the wax through the hole in the model and water would flow out.

But then the status of acupuncture fell....

- In the 17th century novel the *Jin Ping Mei* (*Gold, Vase, Plum-blossom*), Old Woman Wang is abused by the main male character as “an old whore who will stick in needles and cauterise you at random”.
- In the mid-eighteenth century, the Chinese elite physician Xu Lingtai complained that he was unable to find anyone learned in acupuncture to teach him.
- In 1822 the teaching and practice of acupuncture and moxibustion was banned from the Imperial Medical Academy (that’s the source of physicians for inhabitants of the Forbidden City, including the emperor and family).

Why was acupuncture low status in China?

- A hands-on practice: the elite don't touch people's bodies (cf. Laennec)
- Practiced as an hereditary occupation
- Practitioners often less literate, itinerant
- Techniques were painful, people were afraid of them
- Associated with ritual and superstition

Itinerant healer in China, c. 1860

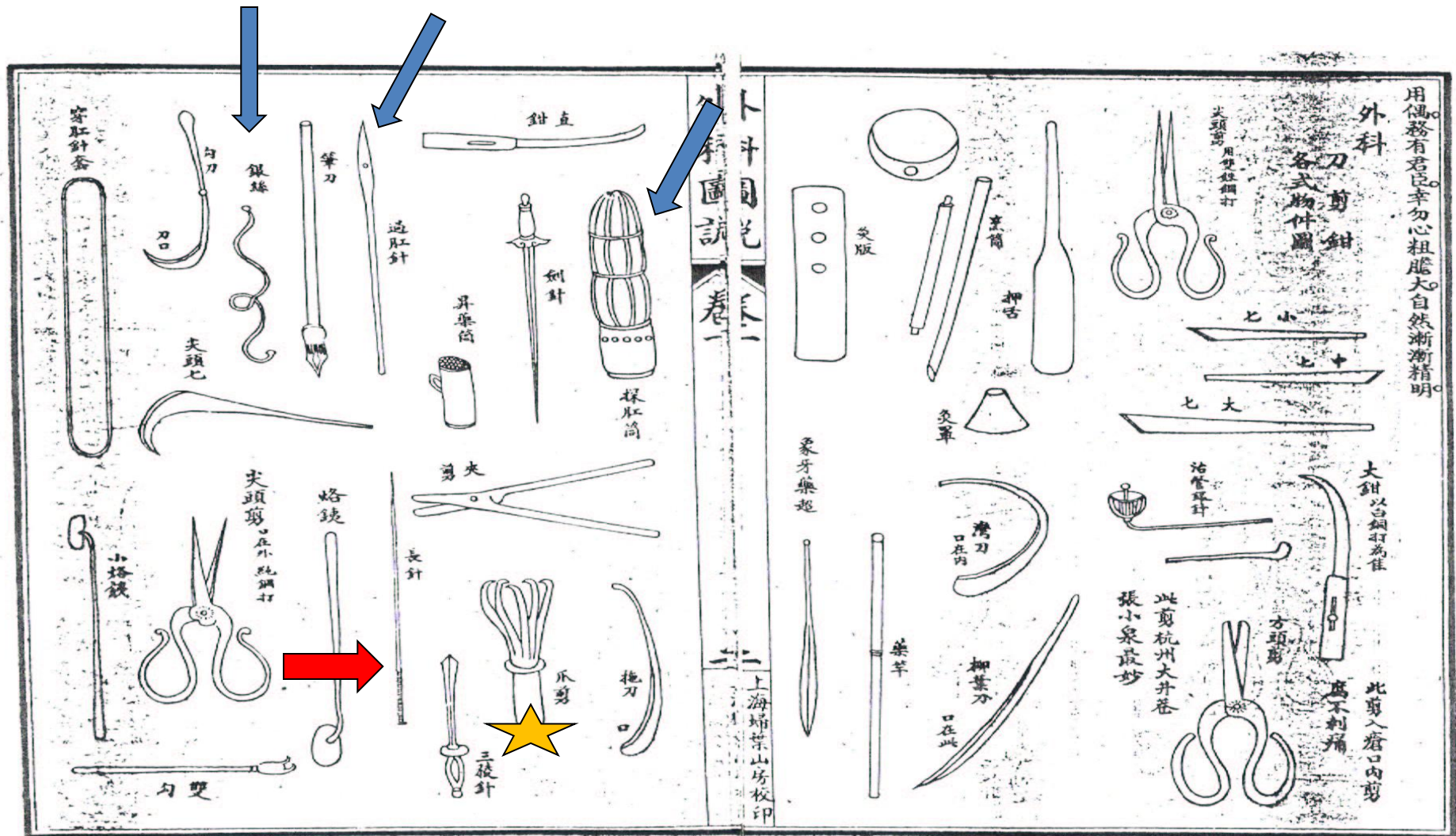


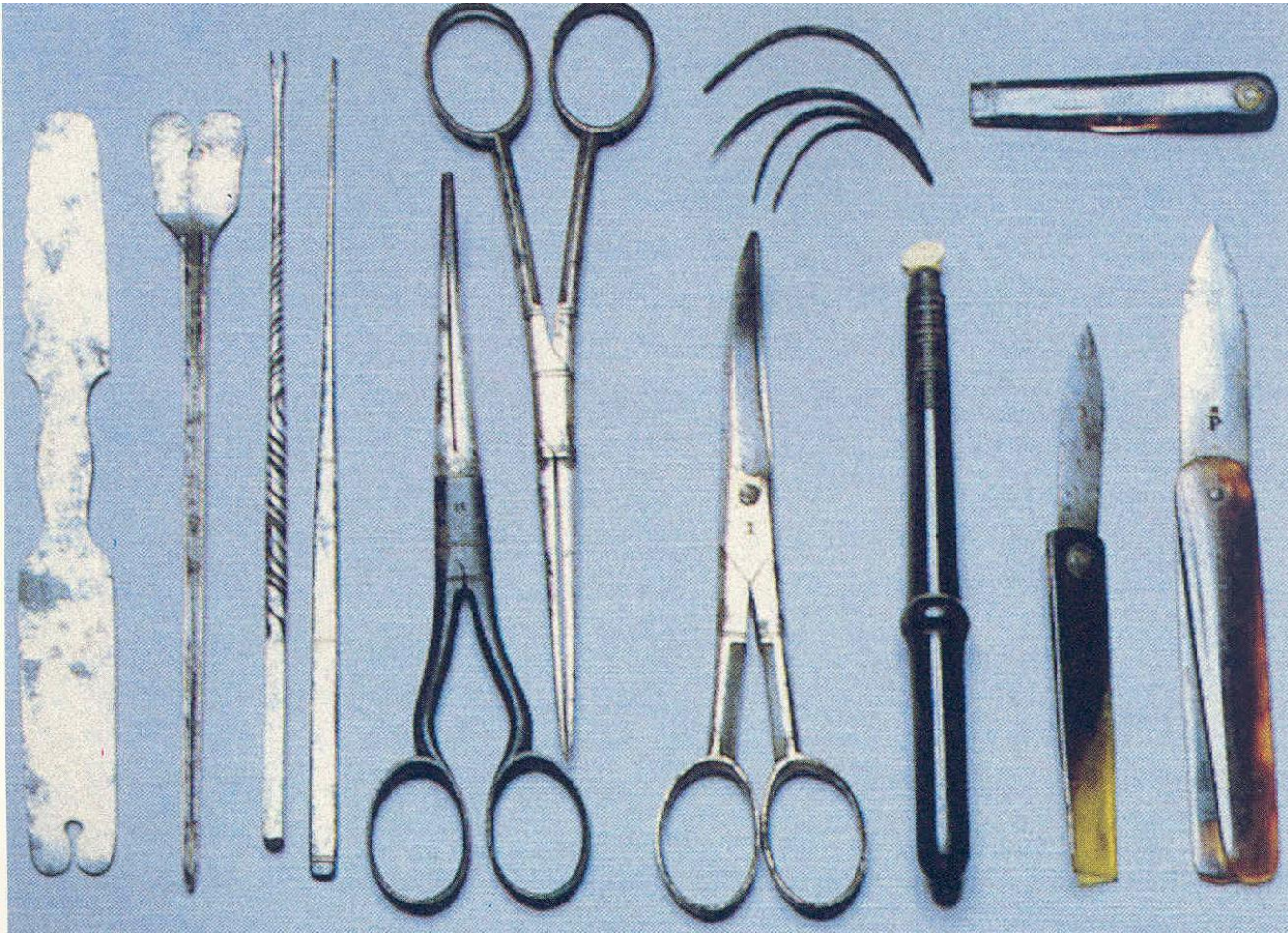
- Dressed in the robes of a (probably Taoist) monk
- Bottle gourds contain medicines
- Incense and prayer beads indicate religious content of healing
- feathers on fan decorated with *ba gua* (*Yijing* trigrams) suggest shamanism
- Very dirty!

Chinese acupuncture/surgical instruments, c. 1900



Diagrams from an 1834 *Illustrated Guide to External Medicine* (wai ke)





BY WAY OF COMPARISON: Dutch East India Co surgeon Franz von Siebold's surgical kit with which he traveled to Japan in the early 19th Century.

In Japan, things were a little different...

9。

夢分流打鍼具 15×7cm

馬場白光氏旧蔵の打鍼具は、金鍼・銀鍼・伽羅の槌からなる。箱書に「三斎公御作伽羅之槌」とあるので、丹後の宮津城主・細川忠興（1564～1645）の作とされる。伝説では、意斎はしばしば宮津を訪れていたが、そこに夢分斎が現れ、三人の交誼のなかで、夢分斎は意斎に法印流鍼術（すなわち打鍼）を伝授したというから（『日本医譜』）、三斎公も直伝を授かったのであろう。これは、馬場氏旧蔵品の精密なレプリカである。



- Acupuncture was a profession largely practiced by blind healers, who might also work as massage therapists.
- Acupuncture was more clearly differentiated from minor surgery, but the needles were originally quite scary...



Acupuncture refinements in Japan

- 1500s: Japanese introduce abdominal palpation as a key diagnostic method. Pioneered by Isai Misono
- Late 1600s, blind acupuncturist Waiichi SUGIYAMA introduced the use of guide tubes for insertion of needles. Because they prevent bending, this stimulated the use of much finer acupuncture needles.
- As a result, much less painful acupuncture techniques were developed, so that it became possible to create pediatric acupuncture, where before only moxa had been used on children.
- Study of anatomy and surgery from Dutch surgeons at Nagasaki resulted in the first Japanese translation of western anatomy in 1774.

Acupuncture models in Japan



Models like these were made by individual students from papier maché and then varnished. These are from the late 18th-early 19th century and measure 68 cm and 49 cm high, respectively.

Contact with the West revolutionized Japanese medicine

- Von Siebold and other Dutch E India Co. surgeons were allowed limited contact with Japanese scholar-samurai
- Who were so fascinated with the “Dutch medicine” that they started to translate anatomical texts, revolutionizing Japanese understanding of the body



The Meiji Restoration of 1868

1630s on in Japan: “closed country” policy: very limited foreign contact, all trade confined to Nagasaki
1840 : Chinese lose the first ‘Opium War’ with Britain, lose territory, required to cede territory and sovereignty.

1853-4 – US Commodore Matthew Perry’s mission forces the Shōgun to sign the first ‘unequal treaty’

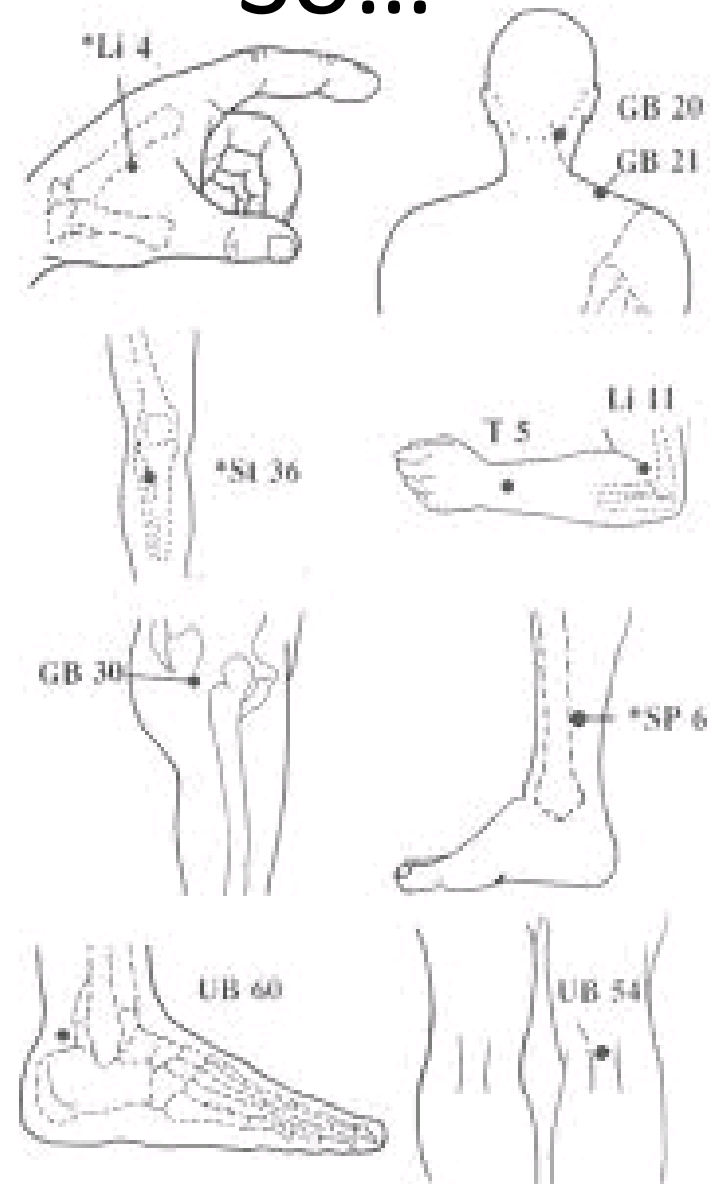
1868 – This “weakness” persuades dissaffected samurai leaders to overthrow the Shōgun’s government

- The Emperor **restored** as head of a constitutional monarchy with the feudal class system abolished

Meiji Restoration and Medicine

- **Samurai warrior class replaced with universal conscript army**
- **Modern armies need surgeons**
- **Modern ports need port health officers to certify passenger and crew health and manage quarantine facilities**
- **Only a western-style medical degree will qualify these medics in the view of the western imperial powers**

So...



- By the 1870s, ALL doctors needed to have western-style degrees
- Acupuncture and massage were exempt from these regulations
- The government approved a list of 200+ acupuncture points defined by their (palpated) anatomical positions and not associated with meridians. This is now called ‘anatomical acupuncture’ in Japanese.

Acupuncture in Modern Japan

- In 2000, there were about 52,000 licensed acupuncturists in Japan, and another 10,000 medical doctors practicing acupuncture.
- 40% of Japanese acupuncturists are blind.
- There are 54 acupuncture schools in Japan, of which 17 are exclusively for blind students.
- Enrollment is equally divided among men and women.
- There is not much theory or western medical science training, but 780 hours is devoted to needle and moxa technique training on inanimate objects, without using people.
- So after getting a license, acupuncturists in Japan have to find themselves an internship with a senior practitioner.

Styles of acupuncture in Japan

- About 20% follow Keiraku Chiryō, the school of classical meridian therapy, which was revived in the early 20th century by mainly sighted acupuncturists.
- Another 30% follow Rempo style, or scientific acupuncture, which is based on point selection without meridian theory.
- The other 50% include smaller associations that follow the teachings of various teachers such as Manaka, Sawada, Akabane, Nagano, and others.
- Chinese TCM also has a small but loyal following in Japan.

Western medicine in China...

- After the Jesuits left in 1773, contact with the West was mainly through the canton (trading station) system in Guangzhou (Canton), in South China.
- In 1805, the first Jennerian cowpox lymph arrived in Canton, and was distributed by E India Co. Surgeon, Alexander Pearson.
- Pearson also arranged to have a pamphlet about vaccination translated into Chinese
- In the 1850s, British missionary Dr. Benjamin Hobson collaborated with Chinese scholars to translate 5 textbooks of medicine and natural philosophy into Chinese.
- The first of these, *A New Treatise of Anatomy*, had an enormous impact, partly because of the pre-existing controversy surrounding Wang Qingren's work.

PROVINZ KIANG SI

CANTON

Macao

Hong Kong

SÜDCHINESISCHES MEER

ORIGINALKARTE DER PROVINZ KWANG TUNG (CANTON) zur Übersicht der Deutschen Missions-Stationen.

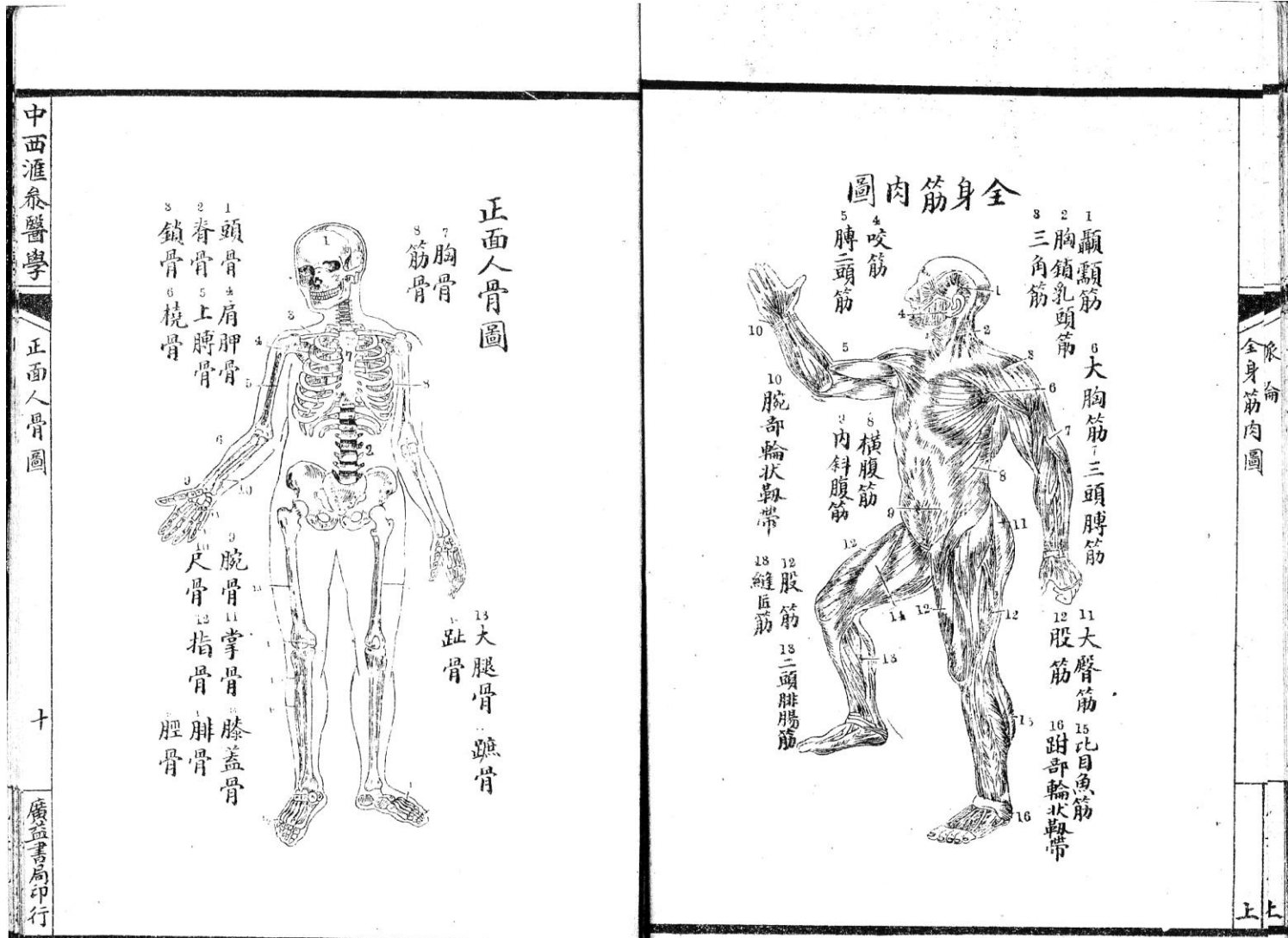
Map of South China in the 19th Century

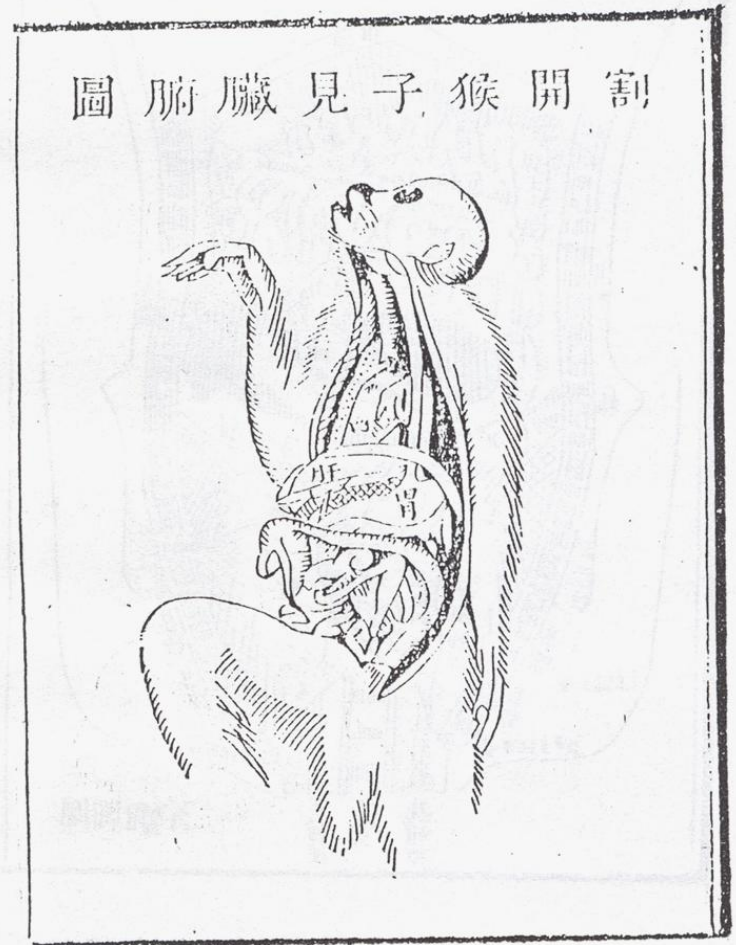
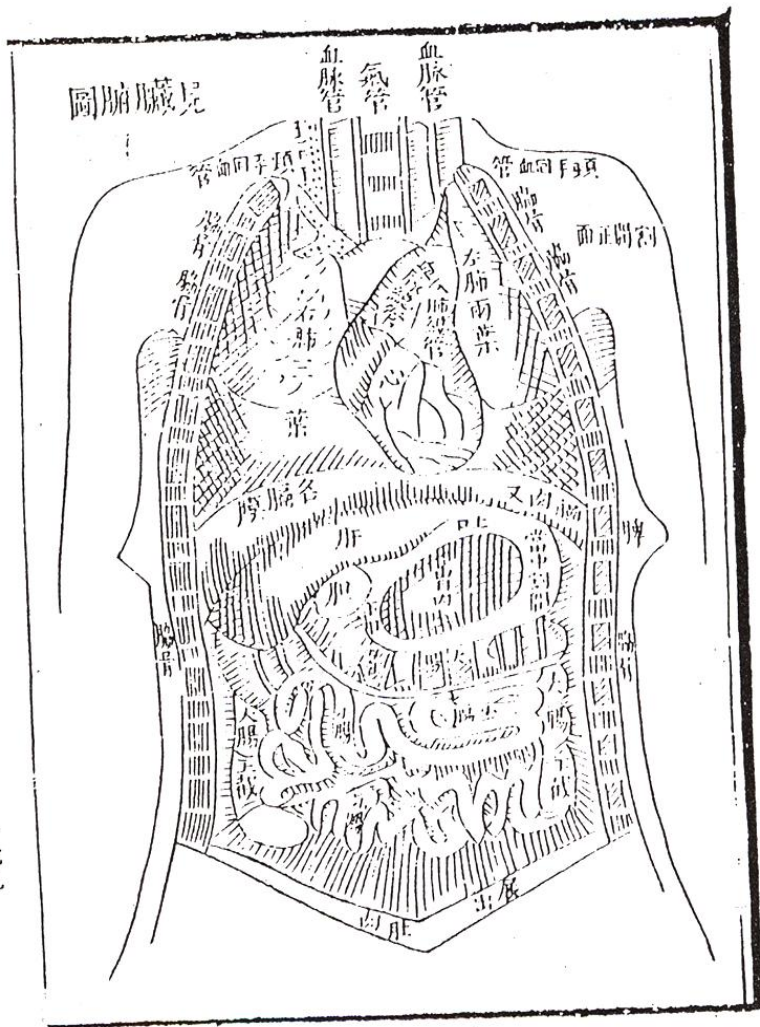
Hong Kong

Macao

ORIGINALKARTE
DER
PROVINZ KWANG TUNG (CANTON)
zur Übersicht der
Deutschen Missions-Stationen.

Anatomy in Chinese texts after Benjamin Hobson's 1851 *New Treatise of Anatomy*





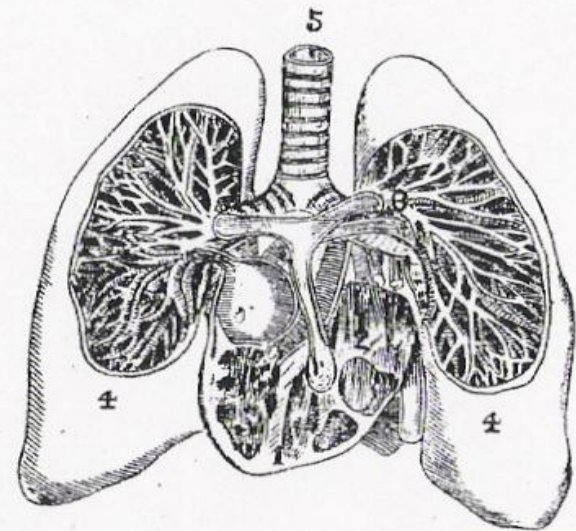
From a late 19th century (pirated) edition of Benjamin Hobson's 1851 *New Treatise of Anatomy* (*Quanti xin lun*), woodcuts of much lower quality than the original.

Diagrams from Wang Youchong's 1907 *Chinese and Western Medicine Combined*

圖置位布配臟內及肉筋脈血身全



圖合肺心



1 心
2 左心室
3 右心室
4 肺
5 氣管
6 肺血管



十二日胚珠

割未

行宮圖

形成叶十六



圖管子驗剖

管子

猪毛

足月胎圖



孕四日子宮圖

胚
清水

雙膜

口塞粒膠

圖針九陽回

回陽九針歌

庭門勞宮三陰交湧泉
大谿中腕接環跳三里
合谷并此是回陽九針穴

中
院

芳宮

癰疽

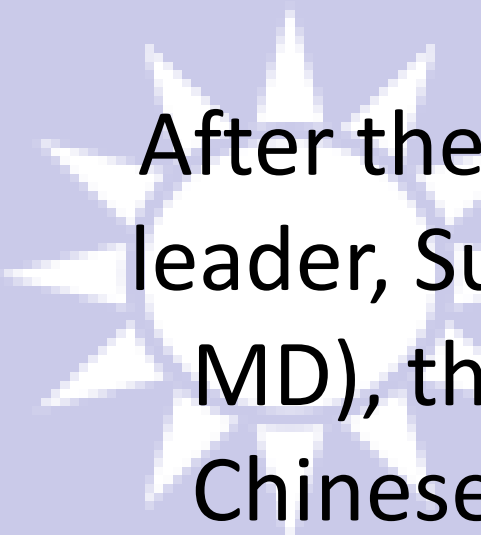
合谷

環跳

三

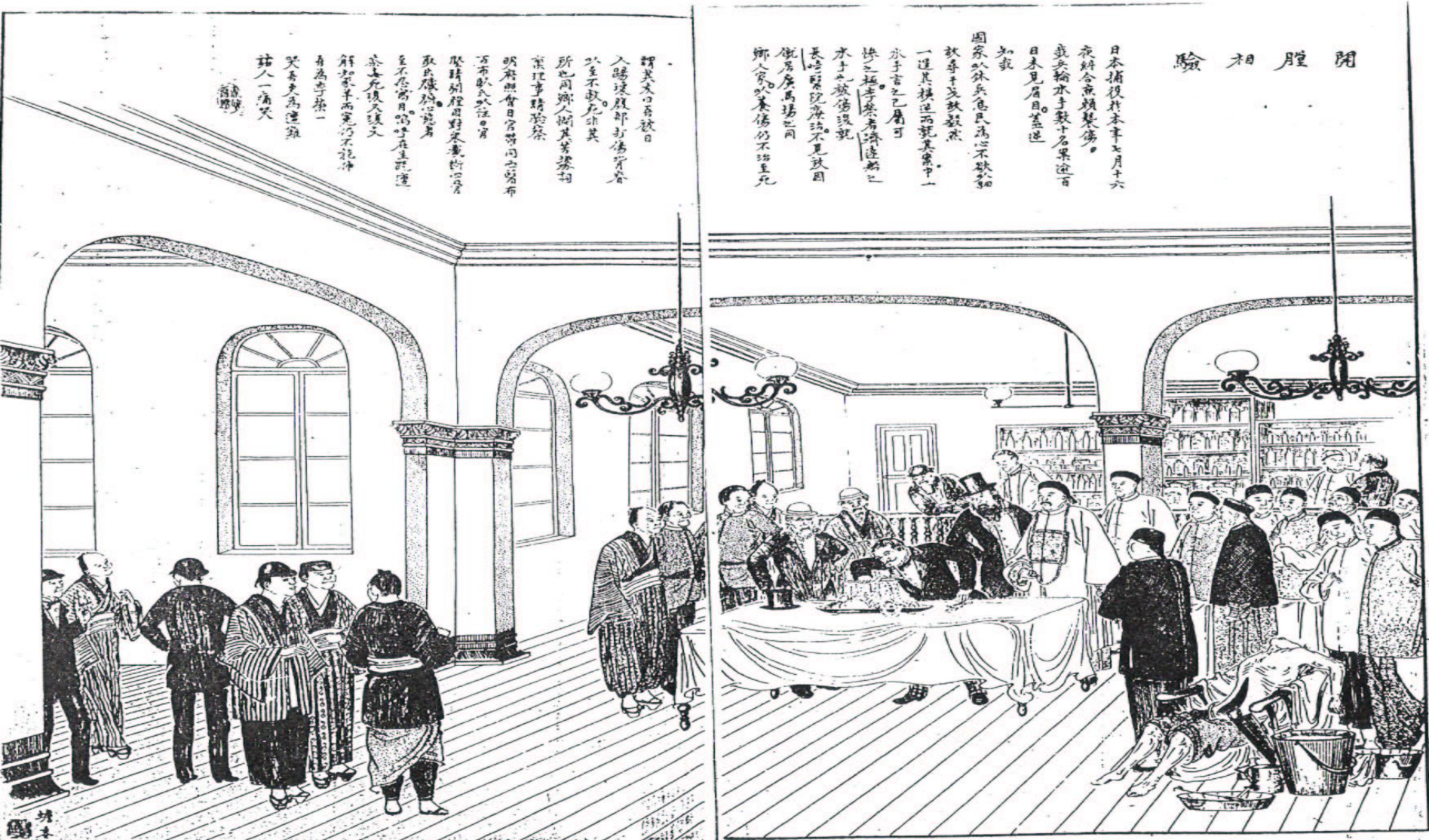
大澤

足底湧泉



After the 1911 Revolution (in which the leader, Sun Yatsen, was a British-trained MD), the new political elite regarded Chinese medicine as unscientific and backward. They tried to deny traditional doctors licenses or the right to open schools. Similar policies had been enforced in Japan after the Meiji Restoration of 1868...

Medicine in Meiji Japan (1868-1910): an autopsy in Nagasaki, 1880s





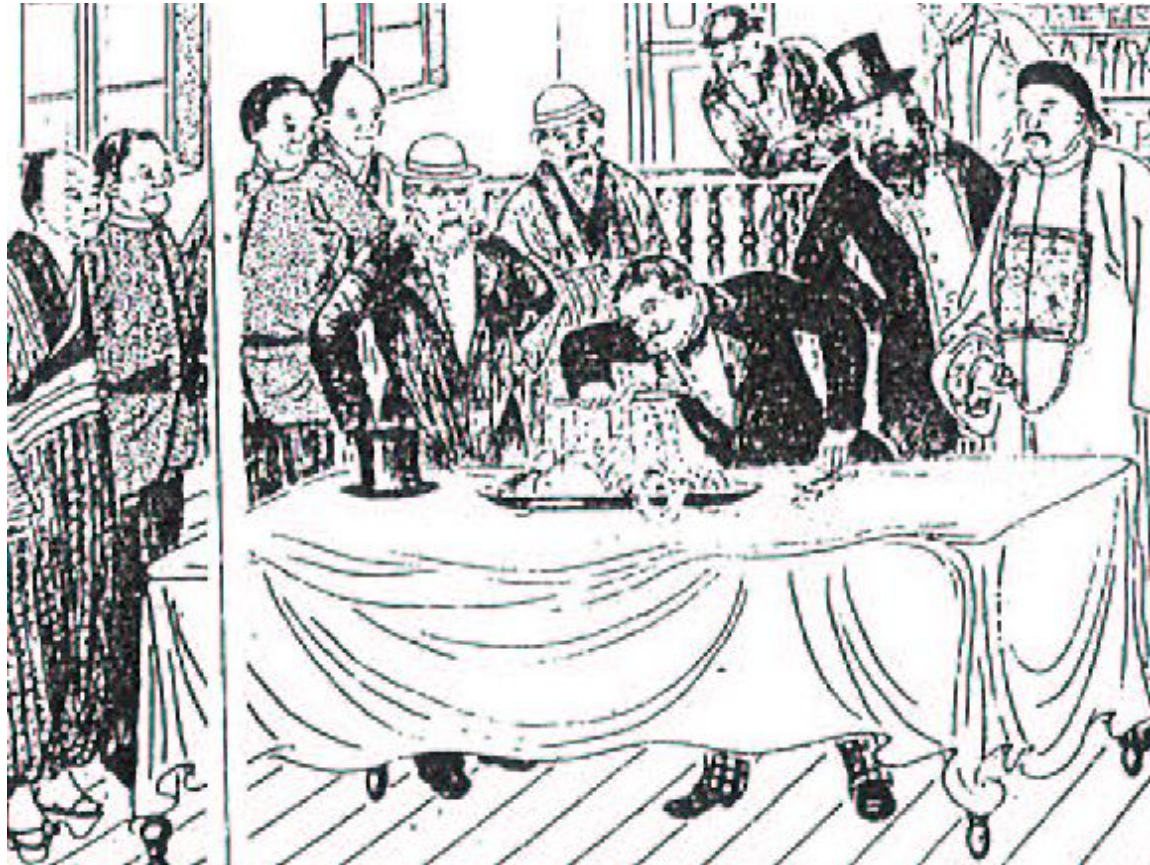
Autopsy of Chinese sailor at Nagasaki, 1880s

Detail: Japanese police and onlookers



Autopsy of Chinese sailor at Nagasaki, 1880s

Detail: the unfortunate Chinese sailor



Autopsy of Chinese sailor at Nagasaki, 1880s

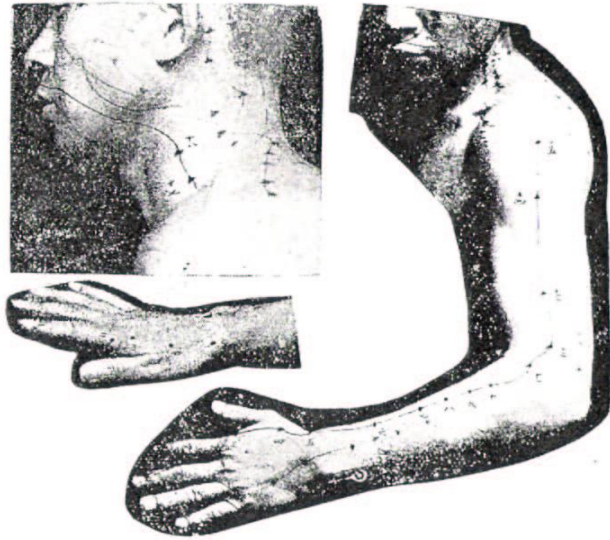
Detail: European surgeon examining entrails (center), observed by Chinese consul (right), Japanese officials (left), and several other bearded westerners.

Government scientism and acupuncture: 1. China

- The status of acupuncture fell even further due to its association with bloodletting, recently rendered unrespectable in western medicine.
- Traditional doctors who wanted to protect Chinese medicine started to organize into associations, with their own journals and schools, but
- NONE OF THE NEW SCHOOLS OF CHINESE MEDICINE TAUGHT ACUPUNCTURE (1910s-1930s)

Cheng Dan'an, 1930

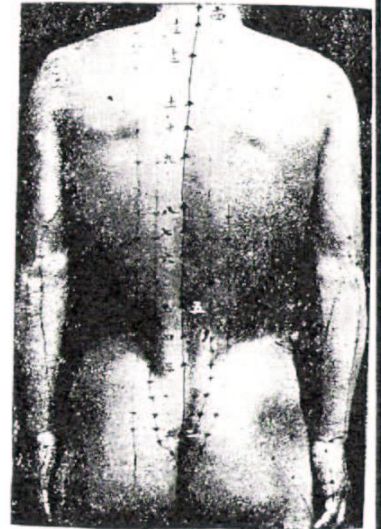
手陽明大腸經穴圖



手陽明大腸經左右各二十

『一』商陽『二』二間『三』三間『四』合谷
『五』陽谿『六』偏歷『七』溫溜『八』下廉
『九』上廉『十』手三里『十一』曲池『十二』肘髁
『十三』五里『十四』臂臑『十五』肩髃
『十六』巨骨『十七』天鼎『十八』扶突
『十九』禾髎『二十』迎香

督脈經穴圖



督脈經共二十八穴

『一』長強『二』腰俞『三』陽關『四』命門『五』懸樞
『六』脊中『七』中樞『八』筋縮『九』至陽『十』靈台
『十一』神道『十二』身柱『十三』陶道『十四』大椎
『十五』痞悶『十六』風府『十七』懸戶『十八』強間
『十九』後頂『二十』百會『二十一』前頂『二十二』顙
會『二十三』上星『二十四』神庭『二十五』素髎『二十六』水
溝『二十七』兌端『二十八』銀交

二五三

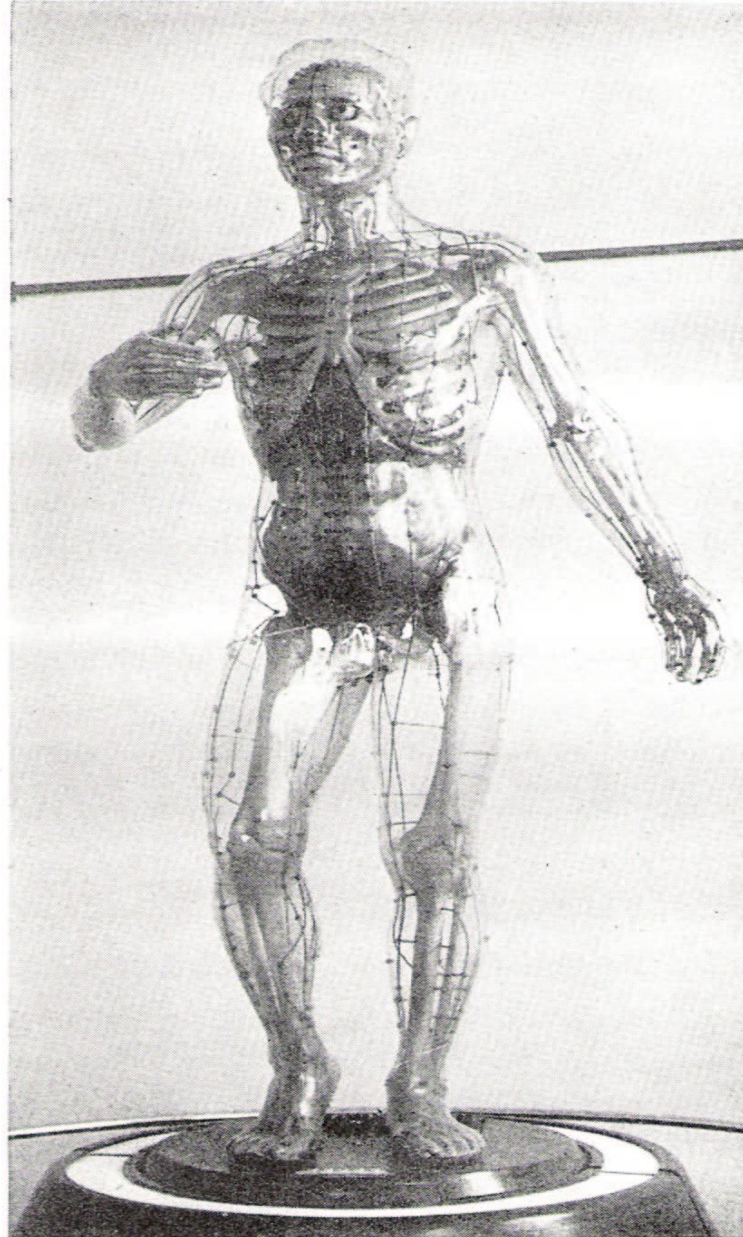
Styles of acupuncture in China

- The first 70 years of the 20th Century were devoted to creating a new product, a unitary “Traditional Chinese Medicine”, which, ironically, is traditional only insofar as it favors the rational, secular Confucian style of medicine, with acupuncture added on in the 1930s.
- The national medical system established by the CCP recognizes ‘TCM’ as a legitimate medical system.
- Elements of medical practice NOT incorporated into TCM (eg 5-element constitution theory, timing of *qi*) were actively discouraged until economic decollectivization took off in the 1980s.

Some ironies...

- Acupuncture, the lowest-status healing skill in traditional China, has become its most successful international export
- More western research has been devoted to trying to understand the mechanism of acupuncture than to any of the Chinese pharmacopeia, and there is still no consensus
- The traditional 'body-image'/anatomy still doesn't have much use for the brain and the nerves...!

The modern acupuncture body



7. Plexiglass model marked with channels and points used in teaching (see p. 32).

Wang Qingren and *Correcting the Errors of the Medical World*

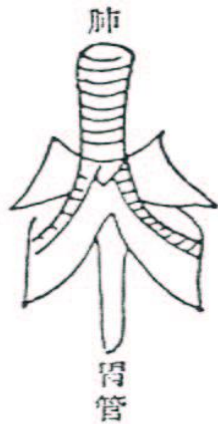


In the early 19th century, Wang tried to correct the frustrating inconsistencies in the ancient medical classics by examining the corpses of half-dog-eaten corpses in a charity graveyard. He may have heard of the medicine being practiced by the Dutch in Japan...

The internal organs according to Wang Qingren, 1830: 1



a. heart and *qi*-portals (carotid arteries).



b. upper surface of the lungs, cut away to show the stomach pipe (oesophagus).



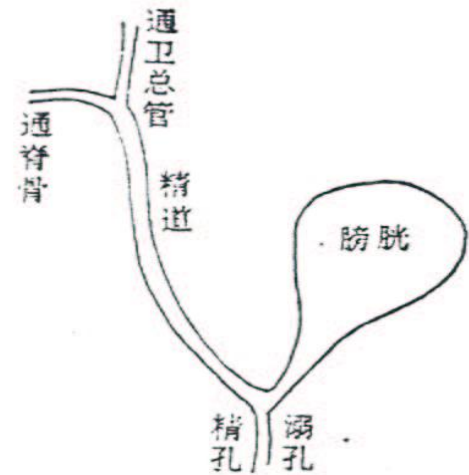
e. stomach, showing stomach pipe (oesophagus), pancreas, gate of fluids (probably the cystic duct of modern medicine).



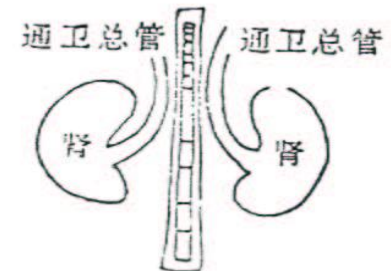
f. spleen in longitudinal section, showing the fine long-tube in the centre.



g. *qi*-reservoir (mesentery).

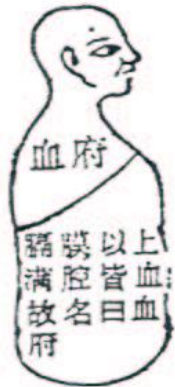


j. bladder, showing connections with the spine and main defensive (*qi*) pipe, seminal duct, seminal outlet and urethra.



k. kidneys, showing spine and connections with main defensive (*qi*) pipe.

The internal organs according to Wang Qingren: 2



- position of the diaphragm, with heart, lungs and blood reservoir above, all other organs below the diaphragm.



- liver, 4-lobed, gall bladder enclosed

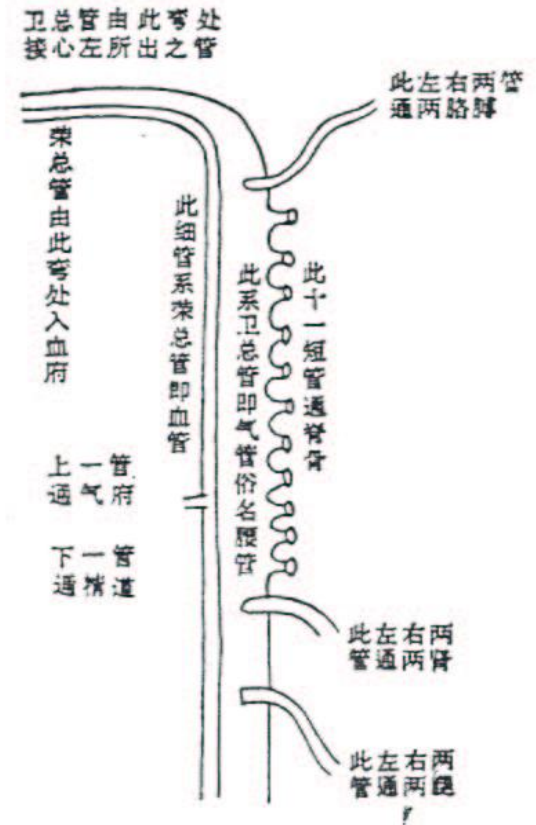


- h. vertical section through the spleen showing water outlets.



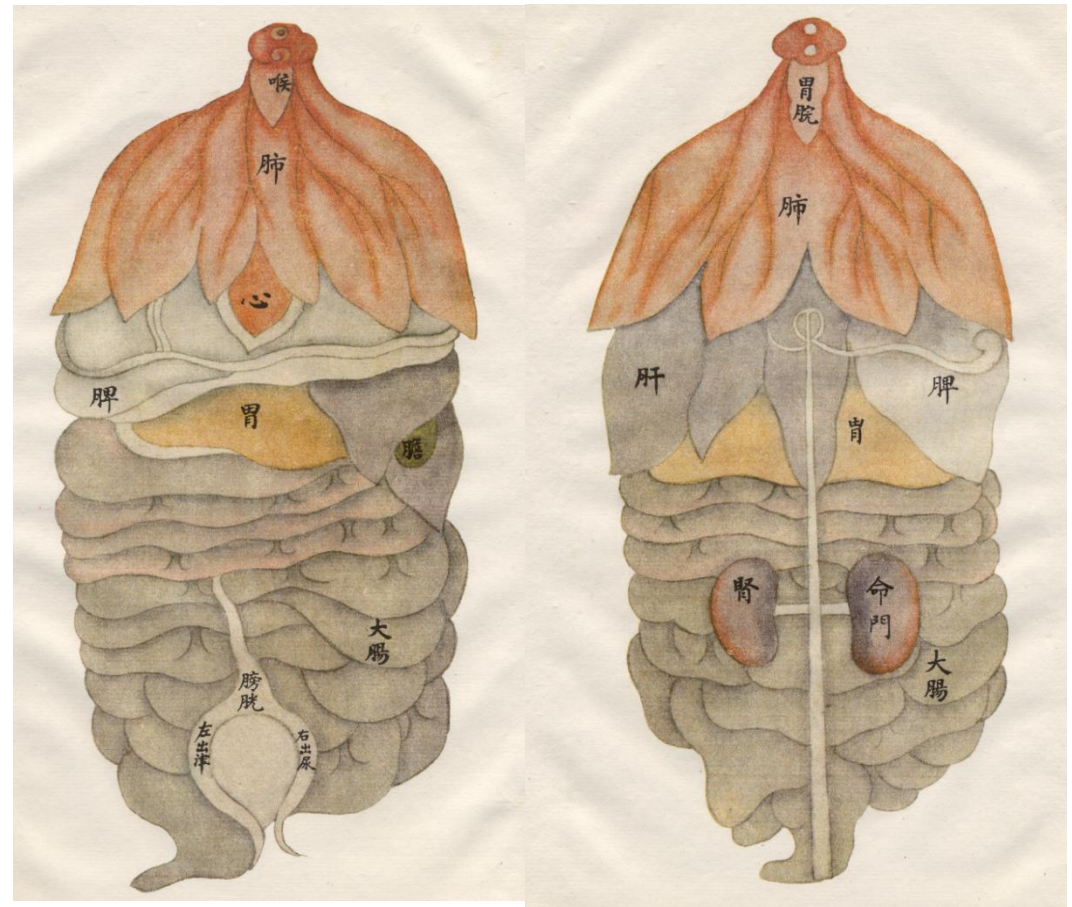
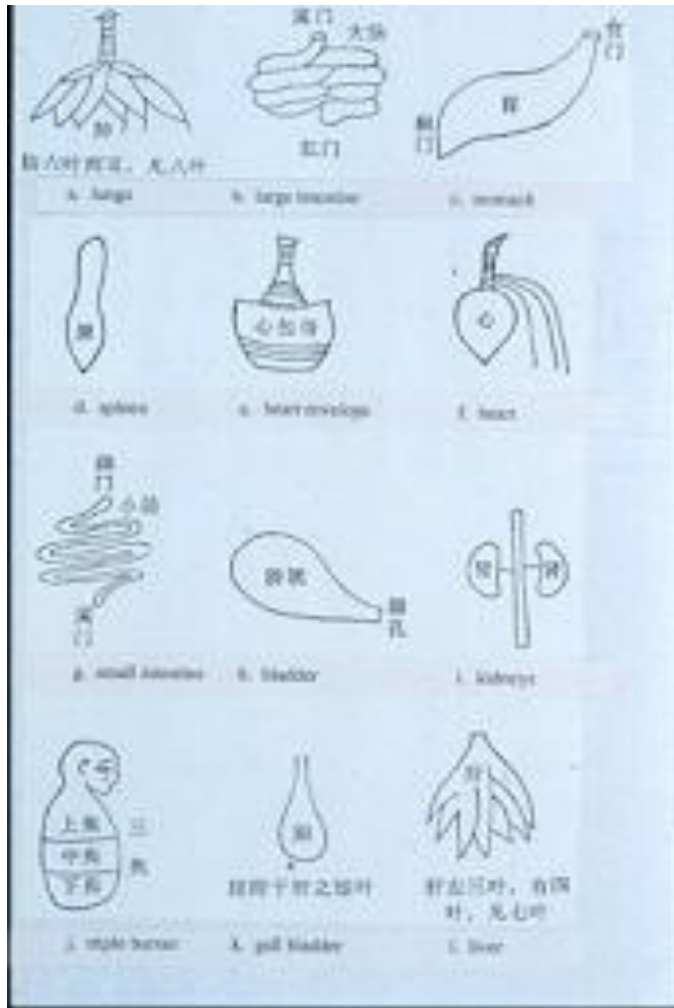
- i. large intestine

(4) pipe.



- l. main constructive and defensive blood pipes.

The internal organs according to traditional Chinese texts



The internal organs from an early 19th C. western textbook

Figs. 20 and 21. Representation of the distribution of the organs, frontal and dorsal views, from the anatomical plates *Icones Anatomicae*, prepared by Leopoldo Marco Antonio Caldani and his nephew Florianus Caldani, 1801–1813.

