

2. *Tsuh fu*.

BRITISH MUSEUM, 6 June, 1887.

SIR,

Professor Beal, in a note to his article on "The Buddhist Pilgrim Fa-hien," in the last number of this Society's Journal, writes, by a *lapsus calami*, in reference to the passage in which Fa-hien describes the dimensions of the statue of Maitreya Bodhisattva, "Professor Douglas has pointed out that the Chinese symbol *kea* is equivalent to *fu* the instep." As this statement is likely to lead to misunderstandings, perhaps you will allow me to state what I did say. I pointed out that in the passage referred to—然後乃成像，長八丈，足趺八尺—the expression 足趺 *tsuh fu* means the instep of the foot; the symbol 趺 being equivalent to 跗. This I affirmed on the authority of (1) K'ang-hi's standard dictionary, of (2) the *Pei wän yun fu*, and (3) of its use in this sense in the early literature of the country.

(1.) Under the character 趺 K'ang-hi says that 趺 is equivalent to 跗—"與跗同." He then quotes the phrase 白華絳跗, and appends the note "跗與跗同," i.e. 跗 is equivalent to 跗.

(2.) So completely do the compilers of the *Pei wän yun fu* consider the characters identical that they arrange the examples of their uses under the one character 跗.

跗, then, is the equivalent of 跗; and 跗 we are told by K'ang-hi is "the upper part of the foot"—"足上也," or "the back of the foot"—"足背也." It is otherwise expressed in the commentary on the ancient medical work, the *Ling ch'u king*, as "the face of the foot"—"足面爲跗." 足跗, then, means "the instep," and is commonly used in that sense. But 跗 is equivalent to 趺, therefore 足趺 is the instep.

And (3) I find it used in this sense in the following passages in the *Hou Han Hwa t'o chung ts'ang king* "足趺趾踵膝如斗十日須知難保守" i.e. "When the instep, the toes, the heel and the knee are like a bushel measure [i.e. so swollen as to form a round mass], ten days [of life], it should be known, will be with difficulty preserved." And again "足趺乃胃經所行之處," "The instep is the place to which the stomach artery goes."

Another rendering has been suggested for *Tsuh fu* in the above

passage, viz., "at the base from knee to knee of the crossed legs," but as this would make a seated cross-legged figure ten times as high as the space between the points of the knees, it is obvious that Fā-hien cannot have intended to give the expression any such acquired meaning. Besides, the literal translation of the words is all that is required to make their significance perfectly plain. In the several Greek and Buddhist statues which I have measured, I find the proportion of the instep to the height of the figure to be the same as that given by Fā-hien, viz. one-tenth. And anatomically this is correct.

ROBERT K. DOUGLAS.

The Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society.

IV. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Only in the second year of his membership, the Society has to regret the loss of Dr. *José Nicolau da Fonseca*, President of the *Sociedade dos Amigos das Letras* in Goa, a Portuguese gentleman of considerable literary attainments. His death occurred before the close of last year, but was not notified for some months later. An instructive volume from his pen, containing "an historical and archæological sketch of the city of Goa," was presented to the Library of the Society by the author, through our late President, Colonel Yule.

Alexander Wylie.¹—It is with deep regret we record the death of Mr. Alexander Wylie, whose name is well known, both in Europe and the United States, wherever the Chinese language has been studied. One of the most modest and unobtrusive of men, he was at the same time persevering and earnest, as well as intelligent in carrying out all work in which he was engaged, whether in the study or the printing office; and it was the combination of these qualities that won for him the regard and esteem of all who knew him, and enabled him to do the large amount of work he accomplished, both in China and afterwards in England. He was also an unselfish man, always desiring to help others in every way that was possible; and many are under great obligations to him, in respect especially to philological work. He was born on the 6th April, 1815, in London; to which city his father had come from Scotland, towards the close of the last century, settling in business in Drury Lane. He was educated partly in Scotland,

¹ Communicated by W. Lockhart, Esq.