

DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

WOMAN'S EXECUTION IN CHINA FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN CHINA

How primitive are the ideas of justice and humanity in the interior of China was recently illustrated by the following story from a correspondent of the *North China Daily News* at Kweiyang, the capital of the isolated province of Kweichow, which acknowledges the Nanking Government but is hardly under its direct control.

A man struck his mother with his ancestral tablet, saying, "It is not I but my father who is beating you." Much hurt in her feelings, the mother took a dose of opium and died. The son and his wife were arrested, and after trial both were executed. From the Chinese point of view the son, having treated his mother so badly as to cause her to commit suicide, was justly sentenced. Against his wife, however, there was no other charge than that she had made her mother-in-law's life miserable for a long time. The evidence on the point does not appear to have been conclusive, and, even if it was, it would not under any foreign law justify anything more than a minor penalty. But the conduct of the wife was judged so harshly that she was executed by the slow process of *ling chih*, known as the death by a thousand cuts. This ancient Chinese punishment, involving unbelievably barbarous treatment, was abolished by a Manchu edict in 1905.