

SUFFERING TO BE BEAUTIFUL. -From their earliest youth the Burmese men tattoo their legs from the thighs down to the knees with designs both floral and animal, and puncture the upper part of their bodies with numerous round holes, into which they rub vermilion powder. This operation is such that opium is often administered to deaden the agonizing pain that it causes, and I have heard that deaths frequently ensue from gangrenous inflammation, the result of these punctures. But there is a proverb which says, "Il faut souffrir pour être bel," and the admiration and envy excited afterward may perhaps compensate these victims of vanity for the tortures to which the decoration subjected them. The tattooing is effected by the juice of a plant which stains the designs an inky black.—
The Fortnightly Review