

DAILY LIFE OF THE MIKADO UNVEILED

This Ruler Spends Greater Part of the Day in a Little Study, Giving Over the Spacious Rooms of the Palace He Occupies to Members of the Court.

By YONI NOGUCHI.

NOTE—The material for this article was obtained from private conversation with a court attendant of the imperial palace.

While we fret over heat and cold, clamor for a summer palace or a winter resort, that august personage the Mikado serenely sits always in the apartment called Omote Goshao or Gakumonsho study—indeed, heat and cold may not approach him who, as we say, lives above the density of ninefold clouds, beyond the ageless pine forest of the Chiyoda castle—and studiously assumes his daily work of ruling this Rising Sun empire. It goes without saying that he possesses many palaces in the country and more than five detached palaces even in the city of Tokyo; but they are left entirely in the hands of other members of his family to draw enjoyment from. And he rises and falls in this little study.

Six o'clock is the time for him to get up without fail. He appears in the onkuchi sosogyo or "honorable mouth rinsing place" after changing his nightgown for a habutae hitoe, a kimono of a single thickness. He will rest for a short while after his 7 o'clock breakfast; at 9 o'clock, the jii, or doctor on duty, is asked to examine his body. Then the tenji or general, the court ladies in waiting, will come to his presence; and his majesty the Emperor will put on his dress of daigenjo, or supreme generalissimo, to make his daily appearance in his study at 10 o'clock. He usually wears the decorations of "Daikuni Kikkasho," "Kun Ito Hakushoku Toyosho," "Zuhocho," and "Kenpohappu Kinensho," and sometimes many more, and always he wears his hoken or sword.

Spend Busy Day.
He retires from his study at noon for his luncheon, and rests till 2 o'clock; and he will be busy at work till 4 o'clock. But when his work does not press he will leave the gakumonsho study at 3 and go straight to his bathroom. His supper will be announced at 6 o'clock, and after that he makes it his nightly custom to talk on poetry and literature with the Empress or the court ladies. At 9 o'clock one who may be the jii kyoku, or doctors-on-duty-office, will appear to give him a massage, and he goes to sleep at 10:30 or 11 o'clock every night.

He will put off his army dress with his retirement from the omote Goshao for his black frock coat and trousers. He stands about the yearly fashion. It is said that his frock coat is old styled, trimmed at the edge, and that he is a staunch adherent to old fashion, and that it is not only in his taste in dress. His night gown is made with white habutae, and when he has worn it once he will not use it again, and it will be given to an officer on duty in the palace or some court noble of old time who may be without any office. And also his shirts, under trousers, stockings, and other things will make no repeated service, but are speedily given away.

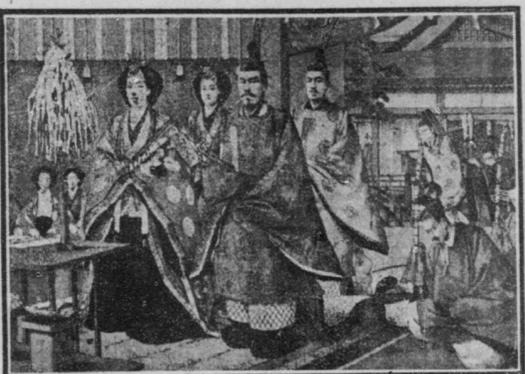
It is twice in a year that he makes his official presence in the old Japanese dress of eboshi and eboshi, and in the New Year's Day and the Shibohai Day, which happens to be on the third day of January, the feast of worshipping the four corners of the universe. But on the other days of the year he wears his custom to an officer on duty in the palace or some court noble of old time who may be without any office.

Diet of the Emperor.
What does the Emperor eat? His diet is simple, perhaps the simplest among the kings and emperors of the world. And we can say, too, that it is more simple than that of the richer class of Japanese. For breakfast and luncheon he has "niju," or two kinds of soups, and "sanmai," or three kinds of dishes, and for his dinner five kinds of dishes, besides two kinds of soups. He takes, besides these Japanese soups, one "go" of chicken soup at his luncheon and dinner. One of these niju is made of milt or a kind of bean sauce, as for the breakfast of the poorest Japanese family, and the other is a shoyu soup. The shoyu is a kind of sauce made of fermented wheat and beans, not unlike Worcestershire. Fishes are the main thing for the preparation of the sanmai and goshi, sometimes appearing as a sashimi, or sliced raw fish, sometimes as a fish fry seasoned with shoyu or salt, and sometimes boiled in shoyu. And eels are used quite often; also kamaboko, or a sort of fish bread.

The imperial cook is called Diazen Shoku; the dishes he prepares have to be brought before the doctors on duty, who examine them carefully. This is called "adokumi," or tasting to test whether the thing is poisonous or not. And then, after having a doctor's approval, the dishes will be offered to the Emperor. This adokumi is quite old, and was already known even among the lords of a little castle of the feudal age; and it became a very elaborate affair in the household of the Tokugawa feudal prince. It is said that a second set of the same dishes used to be prepared for examination, and these those who were to go to the prince. It is quite proper, of course, to pay strict attention to such matters.

Emperor Uses Chopsticks.
The table the Mikado eats from is white in color, as it is the custom since time immemorial; and it is small, like any other Japanese table. The dishes have the designs of chrysanthemums and kiri leaves, and they have sometimes the design of young pine leaves, cranes, or tortoises. And they are invariably the Kyoto ware. The Emperor's chopsticks are nine inches long, and they are polished like ivory. Since their material is strong, they will never break, although they are rather thin for their length.

Takajiro Muraki of the Nippura village of Tokyo province furnishes trees generally called katsu no kiri for the manufacture of the Mikado's chopsticks, and the man who makes them by special appointment is Eitaro Watanabe, who lives at 3 Kotohira Cho, Shiba, Tokyo. He keeps several men who work under him, but he will not let anybody do the finish except himself. To make the finish of one chopstick, it is said, you have nine times trouble. Eitaro will take a cold-water bath to purify himself before he goes to work on the Mikado's chopsticks and hide himself in an inner room, where nobody, even of his own family, is admitted. He will use a special tool to make them, and, as I said, while he is busy on them no one is allowed to see him. I am told that he regards the work as a holy duty, and fifty pairs of



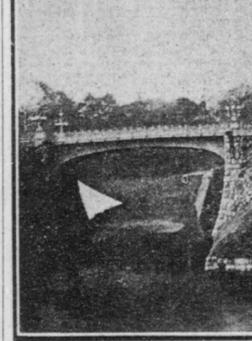
The Mikado and Empress at the feast of worshipping the four corners of the earth. One of the two times a year that he appears officially in the old Japanese dress.

chopsticks are the largest number that will be sent to the imperial house; those that are rejected on account of their bad shape or for some other reason will be burned up.

Bananas His Favorite Fruit.
The Mikado loves bananas best among fruits, and so the gardeners who attend to the imperial garden at Naito Shinzuku manage to have them throughout the year. Besides bananas, the French peaches, the Shanghai and Tenshin peaches, and the "French d'aven" (the white exquisites delicious to eat baked with shoyu) are raised in the garden. And all kinds of vegetables of the Kiose seed are planted also. Among the fishes the Mikado loves the Hamayaki tai (tai is said to be the best fish in Japan) and the Ayu trout. He likes foreign cakes, especially sponge cake and the pyramid-shaped chocolate, and among Japanese cakes one particular kind of cake, called "Yomogi ga Shima," made of white lima beans, is his favorite. He uses to drink the Japanese tea called Gyokuro—this delicious tea bearing the poetical name of "pearl dew"—after his Japanese dinner; but he eats fruits according to the season when he happens to have weight. By the way, he is not particularly fond of it.)

Some years ago he could not be without a bottle of Japanese sake called Sochu at each dinner; but lately he took up the best foreign wine. The Empress is a scanty eater like any other Japanese woman; she does not even touch her chopsticks, so I hear, to the breakfast things which are formally offered, and she eats only for a piece of bread and cup of milk. She sits at the foreign table only when special guests are invited. She likes a fry of oysters and shimeebi shrimps, and tal, especially the Okiten tai, is her favorite fish. In the morning she will have white bean soup, and the luncheon soup will be changed to the Hatcho Miso soup, which is made of the miso from the Sunshu province. She likes variety, this delicious tea bearing the poetical name of "pearl dew"—after his Japanese dinner; but he eats fruits according to the season when he happens to have weight. By the way, he is not particularly fond of it.)

Must Keep Clean.
Everybody who serves in the palace must regard it as the first and most important thing to purify herself. She has to wash her hands twice after completing every task. And she has to regard her own body as a thing unclean; therefore, from 5 o'clock in the morning until 10 or 11 at night (sometimes till 1 or 2 the next morning when the Mikado is engaged on some pressing work), during those hours of service she has to wash and purify her hands whenever she happens to touch her own body. It is an unwritten rule that, suppose something touches her



A rare view of the palace in which the Mikado lives. From a snapshot made secretly.

HUMAN BODY A CHEMICAL FACTORY

Dr. William Hanna Thomas, in Everybody's. In the presence of the great nervous system physicians are now like prospectors in the Klondike region. A few fine nuggets have already been collected which prove that they come from rich veins in the mountains around, and no one knows how soon some vein in them may be struck which, followed up, will yield much gold. A specimen of these golden additions to our knowledge is the fact that, among many other things, the sympathetic actually makes drugs, or true medicine, whose presence in the blood is essential to life.

One of these is now sold over the counter like any other drug. The origin of it is from a twig of the real (kidney) sympathetic plexus becoming at a certain early stage of development rolled on itself like a ball of twine. As time breaks off from its parent stem, and, being enclosed in a capsule, adheres to the top of the kidney as a separate gland called the adrenal gland. These adrenals add an internal secretion to the blood whose active principle has been found to be a definite chemical substance, only 1-800 of a grain of which will uncomfortably raise the pressure of a man's blood in all the arteries of his body. This adrenalin, as it is called, is a new medicine with many valuable properties, but it is itself of such purely chemical composition that substances like it can now be made artificially, like artificial insulin.

His Stable of Famous Japanese Horses, and His Marvelous Collection of Samurai Swords, One of Which He Takes to Bed with Him Regularly.

in horses, as in any other thing, is not frivolous at all; once he likes, forever he likes. He prefers a horse of rather small size; he chooses one about 4 feet 5 inches in height from the hoof of his foreleg to his neck.

Before the great restoration day the number of swords which were kept in the palace was small, being only some thirty or forty. But when the Mikado's love for them became known to the public, many lords of feudal days began to present their own swords; and to-day they are counted more than 300—of course, counting only the Emperor's favorite swords. The most famous among them is called Oni Maru, made by that famous swordsmith Awataguchi Yoshimitsu, and the other by Bungo Yuchira. The latter is called Oni Maru, meaning the pillow sword, with which he sleeps at night.

The Mikado keeps many shampooers in the palace, doctors-on-duty department, who treat him by turns or by appointment every night. He will lay himself on the lacquered bed, with the design of gold chrysanthemums, which is some two feet across; the lady in waiting, and the shampooer he will hide his own head under drapery, and say just one word, "Un," which is the signal word, "Begin." And he usually goes to sleep when the shampooer has finished his work; but if he desires once more to be rubbed he will say nothing, but tap his own



A scene in the palace grounds, where the Mikado walks with his seventeen-year-old Yorkshire terrier.

bow has been neglected for some time. Now and then he gets on his wooden horse and takes some exercise on it, or another enjoyment is to take a short walk in the palace garden leading a Yorkshire terrier, which was presented by Marshal Oyama; and that dog is seventeen years old. Riding on the wooden horse is simply keeping himself in training, as he is too busy with other matters to go horseback riding. So it is said that his horsemanship, which is quite wonderful and gained from long training since the day of his youth, is still kept up to its reputation. You have to observe every rule, even on the wooden horse.

Has Ten Horses.
His beloved horses are about ten in number, and they usually come from the northern countries, like the Oshu province. Famous Kinkazan, who died some years ago, was from Sendai, and Tsumu, or "Friend Crane," from Miharu; and Hatsuonri, the chief favorite of the Emperor, is also from Sendai. His taste

knives. Then the shampooer will start again. The Mikado is a man of few words, and he rarely speaks with anybody as a rule. A certain Okamoto who has treated his body for more than thirty years was not addressed by him even once in his life. The Emperor's wife, and the shampooer, of course; and only the silk kimono's rustle is heard.

Is an Artist Artisan.
Though his mind is always fully occupied, he sometimes finds a little time to amuse himself as an artist artisan. A year or two ago he got one large pamelo, one-third of which he kept, and after he had thrown all the seeds away, he filled it with ashes to take out its dampness. And when it was dried perfectly he carved on it some beautiful picture. It is quite often that he shows his ability as a designer when he wishes to give some souvenirs at his palace dinner given to foreigners. Once he tried to do something with a Hubbard squash, but his attempt failed, as it went to rot under the king's rain. When he took the rotten squash up, he laid it down on his knees, spilling his dress, he laughed mightily; it is said that his laugh is the rarest thing. Really, he must have felt quite jolly at that time.

Isabelle no
Pami mita taidi omokasa,
Onaga osaneri,
Kumisa Hanito.

(Whenever I open the ancient books, the one thing I ponder is, how goes it with the people I love.)
We are perfectly glad to have him as the head of the empire, since he faces us with the heart of the poet; the heart of the poet is love. He rules the country with love, and with love we look upon him and think of him as the father of the nation. Be blessed Japan and the Japanese!
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RULER OF JAPAN.



It is in the uniform of a supreme generalissimo that the Mikado does his day's work.

FISH FACES EXPRESSIVE.

Writes Declares Swimmers Better Companions Than Monkeys.

From the Atlantic Monthly.
Did you ever stop to examine the expression on the face of a fish?

I do not mean of some notoriously grotesque fish, but of just any plain-looking fish. I confess that the fascination for me is the same whether I stand in front of some great collection of little monstrosities like that in the Naples aquarium or whether I sit by my dining-room window and contemplate the goldfish in my little boy's glass bowl. People watch the monkeys at the Zoo and remark how human they are, how sly and crafty the old ones, how "cute" and playful the young ones. But for steady company give me the fish. How restful they are with their mouthings, as regular as if they were governed by a balance wheel! How quiet, too; for not one word of murmured protest or of chattering fault-finding do they let fall upon us. How philosophical, as they bask in the sun the livelong day or seek the occasional shade of the modest sprig of greens which forms the conventional garnishing of their food. How restful they are with their simple tastes! Surely, with their good manners, their quiet deportment, and their stoical bearing, gold fish are the ideal companions of a fisherman man. Monkeys and dogs and kittens may amuse the children by their tricks and antics, but only the grown man can appreciate the solid qualities of the fish's character as written upon his features.

ONE BAD HUBBY NOT A CURE

Reforming Woman Ready and Willing to Try It Again.

Puts Drunken Spouse in Grave, and After a Rest Finds Another.

From the Chicago News.

Admitting that Stefferson is dead, for the fact is altogether beyond dispute, there is not the least doubt that he was an out-and-out scoundrel when living.

There was not a wet eye at his funeral. It was about the most arid affair within the officiating clergyman's recollection. The widow's pocket handkerchief was black bordered, but it was certainly not moist, and it would have been a wonder if it had been. She had been afflicted with Stefferson for eleven years.

He, the late unlamented, had not enjoyed the best of reputations when Mrs. Stefferson married him. She was warned how it would be. She might have forgotten it, but all her friends told her to beware that the kind of son Stefferson had shown himself to be would not make the best kind of husband; that a man who had allowed himself to become intoxicated within six weeks of his wedding would probably be a sot afterwards; that kicking the harmless pet dog of his betrothed, as Stefferson did, argued a brutal temper and an indifference to the feelings of the woman he was to marry; that finally, and above all, that a man who had allowed himself to be so drunk that he would provide for a family was preposterous; also, that the worst thing about the kind of son Stefferson had shown himself to be would not make the best kind of husband; that a man who had allowed himself to become intoxicated within six weeks of his wedding would probably be a sot afterwards; that kicking the harmless pet dog of his betrothed, as Stefferson did, argued a brutal temper and an indifference to the feelings of the woman he was to marry; that finally, and above all, that a man who had allowed himself to be so drunk that he would provide for a family was preposterous; 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