

INTIMATE GLIMPSSES INTO LIFE OF THE JAPANESE

Every Class, Almost, Omnivorous Readers and One-seventh of Population Goes to School--- English Spoken Almost Everywhere---Holidays, Movies and Sports Popular---Transportation Generally Good, but Phone Service Is Poor

CONTINUING the illuminating articles on Japan by Louis Seibold, staff correspondent of *The New York Herald*, is the following intimate study of the Japanese character, as glimpsed through various phases of daily life. Education, religion, amusements and transportation are a few of the topics discussed.

Next Sunday Mr. Seibold will continue his studies of Japanese character through intimate glimpses of the daily life in Nippon. The police system, the tendency toward suicide, motor cars, personal dress, &c., will be discussed.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD.
Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD.
NARA, Japan, Sept. 28.

WITH the Japanese education is a passion. The sturdy rikisha man puts in his time waiting for you by reading one of the public prints or a book; the tired factory hand or shop clerk tops off his day with reading his favorite daily journal or in taking up the study of the ancient history and past glories of his island empire; the passengers on tram cars in the cities and on the trains that traverse the rice fields under the shadow of towering mountains read instead of looking at the scenery; the purveyor of sweetmeats and ice cream cones at the railway stations carries a side line of literature ranging from the vernacular and English dailies to "the best sellers," both Eastern and Western.

A visitor to Japan soon forms the impression that more of the people can read and write than is the case with almost any other country, not excepting the United States, and that while the daily newspapers are depended on for information the average Japanese keeps close at hand a work on history, art, economics, philosophy, from which he gleans entertainment and instruction. Nor is there any dearth of "funny papers," cartoons drawn by competent artists in an artistic atmosphere.

The better educated among the Japanese people are quite as well informed regarding world events and concerning the subjects that entertain the students and cultured people of the world as the most progressive man or woman in London, Berlin, Rome or New York and can converse quite as intelligently about them.

I THINK one of the greatest surprises that a foreigner encounters in Japan is the number of Japanese who speak English, some of them with the facility of a native born American or Englishman. Long time foreign residents of the empire tell me that they have yet to go into the humblest hamlet without finding some one who spoke or at least understood English.

In cities like Tokio, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka and other seaports all of the hotel clerks, railway employees, a large percentage of the shop clerks, porters, street vendors and rikisha men understand enough English to provide what you ask for or direct you where you want to go. The chief reason for this is that the Japanese Government encourages the study of foreign languages.

Its educational system, which provides an elementary course of at least six years, includes the study of English, French and German, one of which must be selected. Probably 250,000,000 yen is expended for education in Japan every year, the communities and provinces alone contributing more than 100,000,000 yen. There are estimated to be 42,300 public and private schools in the empire, with an average attendance of 9,219,492 pupils, or about one-seventh of the population. Of the pupils attending the public schools 4,141,429 are boys and 2,862,074 girls. Japan annually sends to foreign countries for instruction in the higher forms of education about 3,000 students, and provides facilities for an equal number of Chinese. The number of instructors in the public schools is about 25,000. About one-sixth of them are women, who are paid very small salaries, ranging from 19 yen to 40 yen a month—\$10 to \$20.

There are five State universities in Japan, the curricula of which embrace law, pharmacy, literature, engineering, economics, science, agriculture and dentology. There are three important technical schools, which provide instruction and training in agricultural, commerce, dyeing, mining, finance, music and navigation. There is also a woman's English theological institute.

The Imperial Academy of Japan, membership to which is eagerly sought, corresponds to the Royal Society of Great Britain. Many substantial donations are made for educational purposes by wealthy Japanese. Two years ago the Emperor gave 10,000,000 yen out of his private for-

tune for education. The largest library in Japan is the Imperial, which contains 225,183,000 volumes.

Physical culture for both men and women is a feature of all the schools of the empire. Instruction is given in judo (ju-jitsu) fencing, and there is special physical instruction for girls.

The leading educators of the country are discussing the advisability of recommending that the Government fix the compulsory school term at eight years and that a complete revision of the textbook be made in order to exclude the large number of Chinese ideographs which have crept into the Japanese books. As a matter of fact, more than one-half of the Japanese written characters are of Chinese origin.

THAT the Japanese are great readers of newspapers is shown by the fact that some of the daily journals have a larger circulation than newspapers published in the United States. A recent estimate placed the combined circulation of



sects, is a semi-religion, since it has no founder and dogmas, but recognizes the immortality of the soul. The more mythical the deities the greater the reverence for them by followers of the Shinto faith. There are nearly 120,000 Shinto shrines in Japan, with 16,000 priests.

Japanese Buddhism is split up into twenty-two sects. There are more than 70,000 Buddhist temples scattered over the

in a holiday. Sometimes these celebrations are confined to neighborhoods and the rest of the country does not take any interest in them.

The Hachiman celebration in mid-August was celebrated for three days, during which plays were given by dwarfs in ferocious costumes, who duplicated the great military achievements of the long dead hero. Another great celebration which was par-

Street newsstand outside a temple patronized by all classes. Below, at left, is a rikisha, the popular man hauled "taxi" of Japan.



ticipated in by all the Japanese in the most congested quarter of Tokio was the Kanda Nyojin, which was held near the Buddhist shrine of that name. Fifty thousand people contributed \$150,000 to supply decorations, and all the foreigners were invited.

The Susuijin festival of the Nihonbashi fish merchants was another event celebrated by fishermen everywhere. These festivals, which are encouraged by the Government and Shinto and Buddhist priests, are vividly costumed and appeal to most appreciative audiences among the lower classes, who cling tenaciously to the ancient traditions. One play, acted by dwarfs during the Hachiman festivals, was split up into eleven acts and provided entertainment for twenty-seven hours.

THE Japanese are very fond of the movies. There are more than a thousand picture houses, the most important of which are in Tokio, Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, Osaka and the other large cities. American films, with those portraying Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Doug Fairbanks and the Sennett bathing girls are most popular. The tariff in the Japanese movie houses ranges from 40 cents to \$1.

An innovation that the Japanese management has provided is an interpreter, who stands in the wings and tries to explain the silent drama. He provides as much fun as some of the comedies and is at times unmercifully gayed by the audience.

When you enter a Japanese movie you are supposed to check your shoes or clogs at the door. For foreigners, loose fitting linen slippers are provided. These are drawn over the shoes and technically conform to the practice of removing the shoes. Most of the Japanese movie deals with historical subjects and the acting in some of them is very good. The best paid and most popular movie actress is Miss Kagura, who receives around \$300 a week. The best movie comedy actor is Mr. Hutu. He earns a trifle more.

The Government provides movies in Hibiya Park, adjoining the Imperial palace at Tokio. Here during the summer nights movie studies of nature and animals are shown, as well as pictures illustrating the benefits of sanitation, which attract large crowds.

country and nearly 62,000 priests.

There are more than thirty branches of Christian churches scattered throughout the Mikado's empire. These sects maintain 7,238 churches and missions exclusive of those devoted solely to educational work. Of the Christian enterprises, 6,201 are Protestant, 690 Roman Catholic and 347 Russian Orthodox. Christian churches own 932 church buildings and chapels, valued at \$84,000,000. The properties of the Christian churches are taxed, while those of the Shinto and Buddhist sects are exempt.

The total Christian constituency, including women and children, is estimated at 320,000, of which more than 180,000 are Protestants, 90,000 Roman Catholics and about 50,000 Russian Orthodox. The Christian churches maintain 3,150 Sunday schools, with 185,000 scholars. Of the 2,500 foreigners engaged in Christian work in Japan 1,800 are women and 700 men. Besides these there are 4,500 Japanese engaged in propagation of Christian work.

Christian sects maintain 530 educational institutions with about 45,000 pupils. There are fifteen Christian hospitals in the empire, including a leper hospital at Kumamoto; seventeen orphanages, eight rescue homes, four sanitariums and nine nurseries.

The attitude of the Japanese Government toward Christianity is passively indulgent. Missionaries agree that no obstacles are thrown in their way and that they are permitted to exercise almost as many privileges as they would be in any of the Western countries as long as they do not meddle with internal politics.

The only opposition to Christian undertakings has been in Corea, where some of the outbreaks against Japanese rule have been attributed to the influence of the missions. In the Korean provinces the ventures of the missionaries are rather closely scrutinized.

"The Soul of the East," the great bronze Buddha at Kamakura, Japan. Below is a street scene in Osaka showing modern trolley cars and business buildings.



able swimmers. A Japanese child learns to swim almost as early as he learns to walk and a bath is even more essential than breakfast. Even the coolies repair to the public and private baths, which are maintained in the cities, or go down to the nearest stream to wash up at the end of their day's work.

THERE are probably no cleaner people in the world in their personal habits than the Japanese. With them, physical cleanliness is next to godliness. Not only are their bodies clean, but the clothes they wear are clean, thereby disputing the declaration of a Western casuist that "the Japanese wash their bodies, the Koreans wash their clothes and the Chinese don't."

It is a common sight in the cities to see madam coming from her bath in the evening with her hair streaming down her back and smoking a cigarette or one of the brass bowl pipes, or a husky coolie enveloped in a kimono or short, wide sleeved coat that just covers the breech cloth, or swimming trunks that he wears while at work as well as at play. In the winter time the Japanese go in strong for skating and skiing in the mountains.

THE New Yorker who complains about the telephone service of his town would really have something to kick about if he lived in Japan. A telephone call three blocks away is sometimes obtained within twenty minutes from the time that the Mme. Butterfly at the switchboard says "Moshi-Moshi," which is "Hello" in Japanese, until you get your connection. The Government controls the telephone service, as well as every means of communication. It limits the number of phones; or, at least, cannot supply the demand. When you want a telephone put in in Tokio you have to buy it from some man that has it, or who is on the preferred list. It costs about \$1,200 to secure a phone, with a rental of about \$20 a month. There are about 400,000 phones in the country, with demands for 600,000. In large cities the Government has installed automatic street phones, where a call costs about 3 cents—when you get it.

THE transportation facilities of Japan are very good. You have a choice between steam railway, bullock carts, electric trains, taxicabs, bicycle, horse cab and jinrikishas in the cities. In the country districts passenger service is restricted to the latter. There are probably 300,000 jinrikishas in the country. The price for being hauled about by a sturdy rikisha man is not much below that charged by New York taxis, because the high cost of living has affected Japan as well as the rest of the world. In pre-war days a rikisha man would tool you about for an hour for a quarter, going at a steady dog trot under the glaring sun four or five miles without a pause.

The rikisha men constitute a picturesque and interesting phase of Japanese life. Then are as hard as nails, congenial, and very helpful to a stranger, because the majority of those in the cities speak enough English to understand you. They strip for action by wearing a minimum of clothing in hot weather. Their footwear is a thick felt combination of shoes and stockings, bisected between the big toe and the rest of the foot so as to give them a semblance of "cloven foot."

Some of them wear trousers and coat, and some of them do not wear trousers, but merely swimming trunks. When they think about it they protect their heads from the sun by the native mushroom shaped sun helmets; when they don't they tie linen bandana around their heads.

THERE is no standard of dress in Japan, except among the women, who cling tenaciously to the picturesque and comfortable kimono, the high cuff and the clattering clog. The male portion of Japan dresses pretty much as it pleases—and undresses, too, for that matter, with complete indifference to the views of foreigners. The business and official element affect the frock, cutaway, the Palm Beach, the white duck and the sailor straw hat, while the clerk and coolie holds on to the kimono, the native style of knickerbocker, or the dry bathing suit.

If the weather is too warm he throws off everything except the bathing suit and a thin, short, wide-sleeved coat. The school boys and students wear the divided skirt, cut on the Jenness-Miller plan, plus a waist of spotted cotton of variegated hues, with cherry dominating. With these garments he wears a white military cap with a glazed visor, George Harvey spectacles and clogs. When the small children and the babies find the heat uncomfortable they use their kimonos for neckpieces, and nobody yells for the police.

THE Japanese are very strong for sports. They do not go in for prize fighting, but the wrestling tournaments held in the great amphitheatre in Tokio and other cities in the winter and spring attract audiences of from 10,000 to 30,000. Horse racing is only mildly indulged in, because the Government some years ago prohibited betting. Meets are held at Tokio, Yokohama, Kobe and Osaka in the autumn.

The Japanese are very expert at tennis and baseball is gaining a hold on the public. There are teams in most of the big towns, but the sport has not been organized as it is in America. Some of the players are very proficient. It is an odd spectacle to see a southpaw, enveloped in a kimono or wearing the ample divided skirts that the student class affects, winding up to put over a "shine" ball or a "curve." Tennis players strip for action in a jersey and trousers, or wear a pair of running trunks.

The Japanese are naturally very fond of aquatic sports and produce some remarkable swimmers. A Japanese child learns to swim almost as early as he learns to walk and a bath is even more essential than breakfast. Even the coolies repair to the public and private baths, which are maintained in the cities, or go down to the nearest stream to wash up at the end of their day's work.