

The

高塔

PAGODA

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Saturday, February 4, 1950

Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

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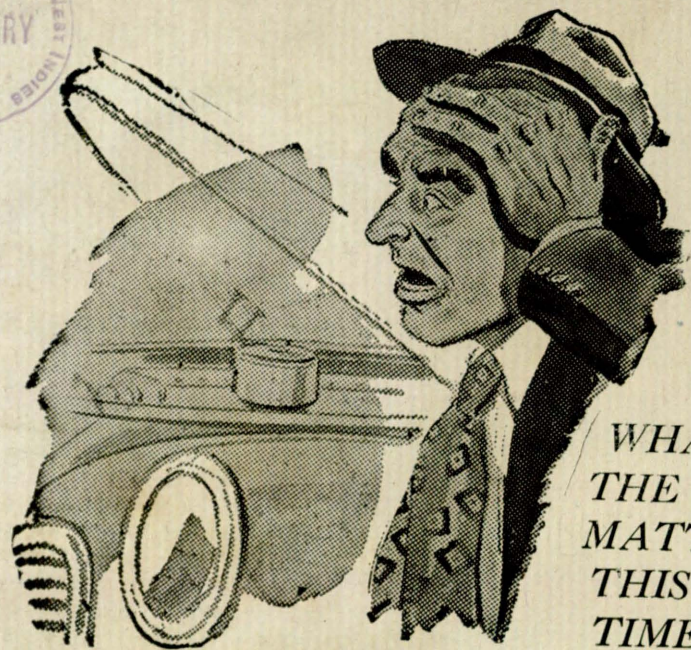
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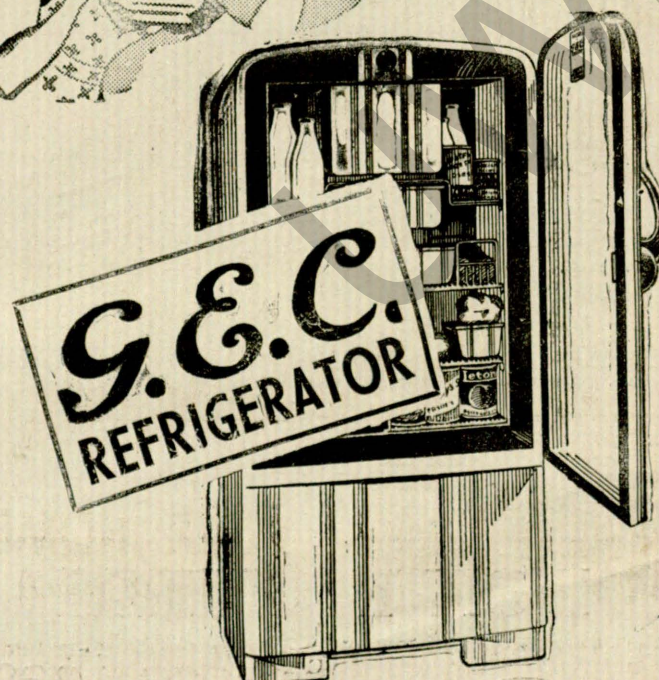


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NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IN CHINA

By RAE ROBINS

From THE CHINA MONTHLY

THE Chinese New Year as celebrated according to the old "Moon" calendar is a seasonable feast. Moreover, from time immemorial different dynasties have varied that date for beginning the year to suit themselves. The Hsia calendar (2205-1784 B.C.), adopted as the first Spring Moon is the equivalent of our January; the Shang calendar (1783-1135 B.C.), the third Winter Moon; the Chou calendar (1134-2479 B.C.), the second Winter Moon, and the Ch'in calendar (246-141 B.C.), the first Winter Moon.

It is interesting to note that after all these variations, the Hsia calendar, worked out by the earliest Chinese astronomer, so many centuries before Christ, was finally readopted (in 140 B.C.), and is still widely used today not only among the Chinese themselves, but to some extent by races like the Japanese-Koreans, who adopted their culture.

When the primitive settlers of the "Middle Kingdom" changed from hunters and herdsmen to farmers, they considered the year as a cycle of crops. The seasons of sowing and reaping, as it were, became the pivots of the calendar. Therefore, the great Festival was focussed at the time when Nature showed the first faint signs of awakening from her long winter sleep. This to a primitive agricultural people was the true New Year—the sign of re-birth—and they reckoned the date of its beginning to fall on the first day of the first new moon after the sun enters Aquarius, that is to say, on a day not earlier than our January 21st and not later than February 19th. The variation in the actual date of New Year's Day is due to the fact that the lunar year sometimes has 12 and sometimes 13 months once every three years, twice every 5 years, and almost exactly 7 times every 19 years, an intercalary "moon" (which always has the same name as the month it follows) is added "for the purpose of making true time

equal with the divisions of the calendar." It also corresponds to weather conditions in a way that seems almost uncanny. When an extra winter "moon" appears in the calendar, there is invariably a longer spell of cold, whereas a double "moon" in summer means that the heat will be twice as intense.

THOSE far-seeing scholars, who fitted their calendar so well to the requirements of the country and the needs of the people, saw to it that the New Year festival should be a lengthy period of rest before the beginning of an arduous year. Under the Empire, "seals were closed," that is to say, official business was suspended as far as possible for 28 days and most State dignitaries were given leave to visit their homes.

Reunion under the ancestral roof was one of the fundamental New Year customs. "A cat in a strange garret, a bird with a broken wing, a fish out of water, are no more restless and unhappy than a Chinese who cannot go home at New Year time." Deep down at its roots, the old fashioned New Year was, and remains, a family festival. To be together in confidence and affection, to feast in common, to visit relatives and reverence the Ancestors, to wipe out old debts and start a clean slate, morally and materially such were the underlying desire of every man and woman when the New Year was born.

Though these main features of the "great feast" existed throughout this vast country in China, local customs as regards the celebration of the holiday varied somewhat. In one province certain rights were performed on certain days. For example, the first holiday ceremony of the La Pa Chow, a picturesque feast that has been adopted by the Buddhists as a religious festival, may be held on the 8th or 12th moon, on the 7th or on the 10th. The legends of its origin vary. In the north people say that

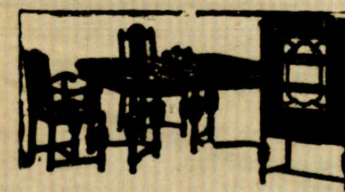
it began because of an old woman who had an unfilial son. As this lad refused to provide food for her, she went around with a begging bowl from house to house. At every door she received something, here a handful of rice, yonder some dried plums, and further on millet, nuts etc. These ingredients she cooked together into a Chinese version of our Christmas pudding. Modern housewives still keep this recipe, making enough for their own use as well as for gifts to relatives and friends.

During the fortnight before New Year, people who feel the urge of generosity at the approach of the festive season, send presents of long white cakes to one another. A popular family with many friends soon receives more of these cakes than can be used. How to get rid of them without being wasteful, an unforgivable sin in China, is the problem. It would not be tactful to invite the neighbours to eat stale dainties. Therefore, on a certain day sanctioned by custom, it is permissible to cut all of these leftover cookies into small pieces, cook them with rice and cabbage, add some meat, giving a broth flavour and offering it as a gift. This mess of pottage is supposed to bring good luck.

FOR several weeks previous to the immediate New Year holidays, every Chinese kitchen is a scene of busy activity. "To eat good things" is a colloquial expression, and there is a popular proverb which says, "During the first part of the first month no one has an empty mouth." The continuous New Year feasting is a counterjoy to a nation forced from necessity, in the majority of cases, to live on frugal fare. This diet, which rarely includes meat, is a timely letdown, where pleasures are looked forward to every 12th month.

When every room is spick and span, the best curios are put out and the handsomest scrolls and pictures, the family posters and

(Continued on page 8)



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THE CHEESE TEST

by S. H. C.

EVERY now and again some old saying pops into your mind, and you wonder what brought on the attack. After trying to figure it out, you more often than not find that it is occasioned by the doings of some poor soul around you.

Just now, the one that runs in my mind is: "Never judge the product by the packing" — and the man who inspired that one is a nodding acquaintance of mine — Hiram Q. Broadbean.

Externally, Hiram was the sort of fellow who made mothers think of their loved sons across the seas. I have even heard it said, that after shaking hands and exchanging a pleasant greeting with him, many a mother has excused herself, dashed home and sat down, refusing even her meals, to finish off the socks or sweater that she was making for her soldier son overseas. A cheery nod from Hiram Q. has been known too to inspire many a letter from a girl to her boy friend. Little children would stop their play to see whether it was Santa coming down the street, in mid-February. Not of course, that our Hiram sported a much pillowed equatorial region, or that he had his smile tangled up with a flowing white beard. Oh no, his figure tended more toward the sylphlike, and his cheek and chin were innocent of beard. But there was an aura of tenderness that seemed to surround him as he paused to tickle the chin of the little passenger in the pram, or stooped to catch a rolling hoop, or taught the correct way to spin a top.

Then one day the cover came

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off and I had a glimpse of the Hiram within. To this day, I find it hard to believe, and I am wondering whether my eyes have played me false. To the world around, Hiram seemed the paragon of all virtues, social and marital. He was much loved and respected by all around him. His circle of friends was one where at times it was almost necessary to get a booking, for all its wide scope.

It came as a shock. A terrific shock. It sort of rocked me back on my heels. I just couldn't understand it. I thought of the respect we of the community held for him. I thought of his family, of his friends, and wondered if they knew. My mind ran over his business acquaintances and one by one I could see them averting their heads, some in regret and some in open embarrassment. For all that he has meant to me, and especially for the sake of all he held dear, I pledged myself, that mine would never be the lips to betray him.

No matter how carefully I analyse my feelings, no matter how I try to look at it, I only end up in doubt and confusion, wondering how it could ever have happened to him, a man of his calibre, a persona so grata, a man who is called 'friend' by the Senate and the Roman People.

I think I first noticed it when he dropped in to ask for a donation to his favourite charity, the Working Boy's home.

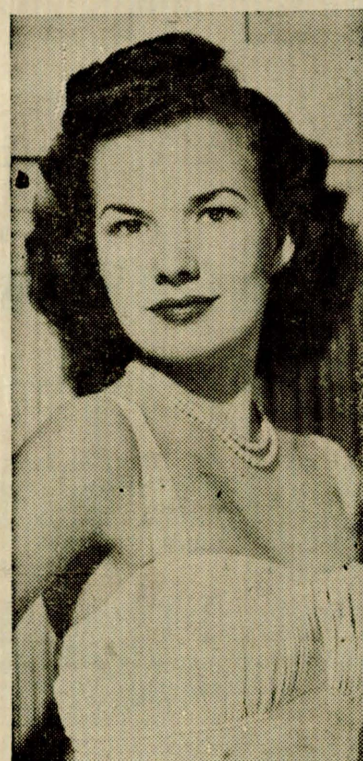
"Hiram," for none of us called him Hy, you'll understand when you get to know him, "what's wrong with your cheek — it looks all pink! Are you sick?"

He blushed fiercely and looked away in embarrassment.

I felt like a cad for putting that question. Hiram was the sort of chap, whom you'd never dream of causing embarrassment, even unwittingly. If words could be withdrawn, those that uttered would have been taken out of circulation so fast, you'd think I was asking about the weather instead. But, anyhow, you know the business of the spoken word and the fled arrow.

He was so obviously upset, that I changed the subject over to the object of his visit. Clever work that.

POPULAR GALE



Her name is Gale Storm, and her personality's breezy, too. Recently added to Universal-International Studio's roster of stars, she's shortly to be seen in three new films. Look for Gale opposite Dennis O'Keefe in "Abandoned," opposite Donald O'Connor in "Curtain Call at Cactus Creek," and opposite Audie Murphy in "The Kid from Texas."

But believe it or not, just like happens in those cases. The matter didn't die a natural death then and there. The pebble dropped in the still pond sends its little flock of rings seeking the distant shores.

One day I popped in on him, unexpectedly. There was no time for him to hide. I caught him at it, and I wished then and there that I were a third person, and not myself. As a matter of fact, for some days after that I wasn't quite myself. I have to say it aloud to convince myself—

Hiram Q. Broadbean — the delight of the young, the pride of the old, and the thrill of the not so old, the man voted the No. 1, candidate for all civic honours.

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MOVEMENTS OF NOTE

By I. C. Evre Ting

OUR resourceful golf enthusiasts have increased their 2-hole course to a 4-hole course. Not even softball practice can put them off. And so on hot days and wet days they trudge up and down the field. It will be some time, however, before they make any further expansion because of a rather harassing experience a party had while trying to break new grounds. Seems like in going over their boundary they disturbed the peaceful and tranquil grazing of a very contented cow who forthwith made a bee line for the tourists and sent them all back to home base.

BASKETBALL'S revival has brought a keen spirit of competition among the teams, so much so now that there is a triangular tie. What one team lacks in experience they make up for in stamina and vice versa. Our veteran team who had been collecting trophies for a number of years is sadly lacking in stamina and will have to go into intense training to win their remaining matches. The South China team headed by our beverage merchant appear at the moment to have the advantage as they have humbled the "Y" twice before and should do it again. The latter team has of late been the veteran team's chief bug-a-boo.

OUR sister club for the North-shore sent their representatives into town last week on a fund-raising expedition. With such a person as their engaging solicitor, our city merchants loosened their purse strings generously to a barrage of eloquent fund-raising

speeches. In only a day and a half they had nearly four hundred pounds in their coffers. Not too bad for a down payment on their own clubgrounds which is more than their Kingston brothers can boast of—their own club grounds, that is.

MORE highlights from the North-shore is the appearance of a second Donald Leahong. Going right through to the finals in the Junior tournament without the loss of a single set to any of the seeded player this unknown and young tennis prodigy is the talk of Montego Bay. He is planning to take part in a few tournaments in the city this season so we will have the opportunity of seeing what he can do and encourage him to more laurels in the tennis world.

TIMES are changing. For the first time in history the 'eleven o'clock' children have shown a little interest in the Society's election of officers. There was a little canvassing and the result, the responsible parties felt, were quite satisfactory whether or not it was the result of their effort or the natural course of events. By the time the next election comes round there should be enough interest in it to make it count.

ALTHOUGH it may not be much remembered still there are quite a few who do not need to be reminded when Valentine's Day is supposed to be. I know of one, she of the tall, lithesome figure, who is planning to announce her engagement on Valentine's Day. Perhaps there are others I have not heard of.

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PERSONALIA

The Chinese New Year will fall on Friday, February 17.

For the Chinese New Year the Chinese Benevolent Society will have their usual Garden Party at the Chinese Public School on Sunday, February 19.

Two Chinese films will be shown at the Ward Theatre on Friday, February 17 and Sunday, February 19.

The Chinese Benevolent Society had another election last Sunday for the election of officers to serve on the Executive Committee for the current year. The result of the counting of the votes is as follows: A. Tie Ten Quee, 393; Wong Quee Fah, 254; Wong Chew Onn, 236; Sidney Chang, 221; H. Tai Tenquee, 204; Lennie Chin Yee, 212; Horace Chang, 193; Chai Lee Chong, 189; A. Chin Lenn, 187; James Williams, 183; Albert Chin Yee, 165; Chang Shing Shue, 151; Chang Ching Sang, 148; William Chang, 127.

The former Association for the Promotion of Aviation in China,

Jamaica Branch, is sponsoring the Chinese Commercial School which is now in session at 1G North Street. The fee is only £1. 0. 0 for the semester which ends in June.

The marriage of Miss Dorothy Yee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Yee Tack Sheung of Chapelton to Mr. Wilfred Lodenquai, son of the late Charles Lodenquai of Luidas Vale and Mrs. Eugenie Lodenquai will take place on Sunday, February 5 at the Kingston Parish Church. A reception will be held afterwards at the Chinese Freemason Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Sheung of Green Island have announced the marriage of their daughter, Enid to Mr. Lloyd Kong, son of the late Kong Back Hee and Mrs. Alice Kong to take place on Sunday, February 12 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. The reception will take place at 52 North Street and a dinner afterwards at 52 East Queen Street.

The C.A.C. football team drew their last match of the season playing against St. Josephs, by the score 1-1. The C.A.C. ended the season in second place.

Considerable interest has been shown in the Basketball League

games which has been going on the past three weeks. The results of matches played are as follows:—

C.A.C. No. 1 defeated Fire Brigade, 44-26.

Y.M.C.A. defeated C.A.C. No. 2, 27-25.

Community Store defeated South China "B", 34-18.

Y.M.C.A. defeated C.A.C. No. 1, 27-17.

C.A.C. No. 2 defeated South China "B", 18-4.

Y.M.C.A. defeated Community Store, 75-27.

C.A.C. No. 1, defeated Fire Brigade, 36-22.

South China "B" defeated C.A.C. No. 1, 32-19.

The fixtures for the rest of the month are as follows:

Feb. 6 YMCA vs Fire Brigade at York Park.

Feb. 7 C.A.C. No. 1 vs. Community Store at C.A.C.

Feb. 8 C.A.C. No. 2 vs. South China "A" at C.A.C.

Feb. 9 South China "B" vs. Fire Brigade at York Park.

Feb. 10 C.A.C. No. 1 vs. C.A.C. No. 2 at C.A.C.

Feb. 13 Community Store vs. Fire Brigade at C.P.S.

Feb. 15 Y.M.C.A. vs. South China "A" at Y.M.C.A.

Feb. 17 Fire Brigade vs. C.A.C. No. 1 at York Park.

Feb. 20 Community Store vs. C.A.C. No. 2 at Public School.

Feb. 21 Y.M.C.A. vs. South China "B" at Y.M.C.A.

The next issue of "The Pagoda" will appear on Saturday, February 25.

The Chinese Christian Guild will hold their annual general meeting next Wednesday at 4.30 p.m. at the Parish Church Rectory on South Camp Road.

PORT ANTONIO

The Port Antonio Chinese Sports Club was host to visiting basketball teams on two occasions during the past three weeks. On January 15 playing against two mixed teams of the Kingston Fire Brigade, the visitors won one, 37-28 and lost one 20-26. On Sunday, January 29, both Community Store and The Chinese Athletic Club sent teams to Port Antonio. The Community Store won their match, 35-21 while the C.A.C. lost theirs, 28-18.

First Sportsman—"It's getting awfully late and we haven't hit a thing yet."

Second Sportsman—"Let's miss two more and then go home."

PANORAMA

INSTITUTE'S ART EXHIBITION

The Art Exhibition now open to the public at the Art Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica is worth visiting. It is comprised of the work of artists living in Jamaica and some of the exhibits on this occasion display an individuality which is refreshing because so often it is lacking. There is, too, a touch of the beautiful that is also refreshing.

Albert Huie's paintings have a sort of majestic beauty about them that exhibits a strength not always to be observed in the work of our local artists. It is easily apparent that this artist has benefited from his tuition abroad, and one looks forward to the time when he will give us an exhibition all on his own. Of Edna Manley's work so much has already been said that it seems there is nothing more to add to prove how superb and amazing it is. Its amazing part is, course, its expressiveness, a quality that is very evident in "Announcer" and "New Moon" which two carvings are not so well known to us as the larger ones.

The work of K. Dignum is certainly both unique and attractive. So too are many of L. R. Salmon's pictures and E. Vautier's. The tree studies of Mrs. Wiehen, Mrs. Burroughs and Moira Hendriks are all beautiful and satisfying. The colourful, restful blends of L. K. Brennan in sea, river and country scenes one carries away to dwell upon in odd moments of respite from the wear and tear of life. This exhibition is refreshing both to the eye and spirit.

HOTELS IN THE NEWS

Two hotels in particular have been very much in the news recently. These were the Tower Isle and the Moneague, the former because of its first birthday celebrations over mid January, and the latter because of its reopening after a long period of disuse.

At Tower Isle the celebrations were varied and attractive (as ever) the Aquatic Sports at the famous swimming pool forming one of the most outstanding of the events. Then there was the Birthday Dinner with the four-foot-high birthday cake, followed by the dance on the Marine Roof at which Calypso artist "Lord Davey" sang a composition of his own in which he wished Tower Isle "Happy Birthday."

The Moneague Hotel has been reopened by Mr. Tom Macaulay, who carried through this ceremony by giving a luncheon party to near on two hundred specially invited guests from the parish and other parts of the Island. Some of the guests who were there as weekenders remained on to enjoy some more of the hospitality of this lovely country abode. A swimming pool, tennis,

horseback riding and golf will provide some of the entertainment for guests at Moneague Hotel, and the exquisite charm of the decorative scheme will provide an ever interesting and restful environment. Numbers of Chinese antiquities dating as far back as the Ming Dynasty, and a choice array of European treasures adorn the place which has been decorated and furnished along the most picturesque and novel lines imaginable.

RELIGIOUS TOPICS

Many matters of interest in religious fields have been taking place just recently. There has been the Annual Methodist Synod attended by Mr. John Stead, vice-president of the Methodist Conference in England and his wife. Many important issues have been taken up by this Synod which prove that the Methodists in Jamaica are working in the

AIRWAYS

The sky is criss-crossed with the many paths mapped out in space; a network of the unseen routes that run from place to place — between the boundless roof of heaven and the earth below; between the chimneys and the stars—the giant planes come and go — along the highways of the air. You'd think they'd go astray — Up there in the darkness. You would think they'd lose their way — But they arrive — and land at that far point to which they fly — for men have risked their lives to make the roadways of the sky.

Though the future is unknown, the heart need have no fears; we can go forth unafraid into the coming years — for others have gone on ahead, and made the trial flight — and left a trail of Truth for us to follow through the night.

—Patience Strong.

right Christian spirit for the good of the people in this Island.

There has been a Conference of the B.W.I. Union of Seventh Day Adventists held in Mandeville, a special feature of which has been the ordination of three Jamaican Ministers. In connection with the Congregational Church a visit is being paid it by the Rev. Ralph Calder, secretary of the Colonial Missionary Society who is paying this visit to Jamaica and also to British Guiana for the purpose of becoming conversant with the work of his Church in these parts.

In the Baptist denomination the successor to the Rev. Cowell Lloyd who has retired owing to his age has now been appointed in the person of the Rev. W. J. Clarke of the Baptist Church at Duncans.

Dr. Jessie Bader, D.D., General Secretary of the World Convention of the Disciples of Christ, accompanied by his wife, has also come on a visit to look over the Christian Churches here, and too, Dr. Paul Rood, the president of the World Christian Fundamental Association and of the International Committee of Child Evangelization Fellowship with a party of his associates who are conducting evangelistic services in the city.

ON SPECIAL MISSIONS

Also coming to the Island on missions of various sorts in the recent past has been a Jamaican scientist, Miss Ina May Martin of McGill and Howard Universities, who came to collect soils for research purposes in connection with the Wonder Drug Soil Research work abroad. Also, in the field of medicine has come Dr. Robert Muirhead-Thompson of Glasgow University as Malaria Specialist in the Malaria Control Department of Jamaica.

Mr. C. W. Johnson, Police Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies has also paid us a call in his round of an inspection tour of the British West Indies.

WAR EXERCISES

Beginning on the first of this month a series of war manoeuvres are to take place in the Caribbean involving some 80,000 troops and lasting over a period of five or six weeks. The climax to the proceedings will be a mock assault against the Vieques island off Puerto Rico on or about March 7th.

The manoeuvres are being conducted by the United States under the command of Vice Admiral W. M. Fechterler, the plans having been drawn up by Admiral Blandy, Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet who is just due for retirement. There will be the latest tests in under-sea warfare to start off with, and about 150 ships of all sizes and kinds will take part in these colossal war games.

A simulated atom bomb is being consigned to each side of the battling forces which will be used at the discretion of their respective commanders only if he considers that such use has strategic or tactical value. Such war manoeuvres are of the utmost value to the training of forces in all services, and form a vital part of the "readiness" necessary in these days of wars and rumours of wars.

Observer.

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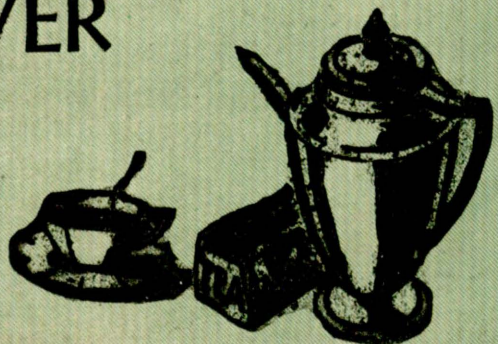
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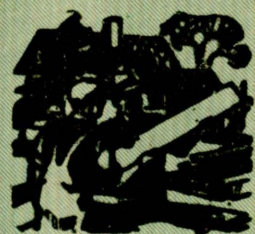
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Editor: Chas. T. Chang

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India Today

On January 26th last, India was formally declared a Sovereign Democratic Republic within the British Commonwealth of Nations. This step was taken at the free will of the peoples of India who, although given their freedom at last, desired to remain a member of the British Commonwealth. The decision was reached after careful diplomatic contacts had been carried through by Prime Minister Pandit Nehru and at his advice.

There were great celebrations throughout India and in all the areas throughout the world where Indians have settled and form a part of the communities. Here in Jamaica the event was marked by pageantry, parties and ceremonials, and in a special broadcast talk and Indian music. A message to Indians abroad was received from the Indian Minister for Health, Amrit Kaur, on the eve of the day, in which he stated that with independence comes great responsibilities which rest on the shoulders of every Indian man and woman and that the solution of their many problems lies in their own hands. The British Government and individuals were in close cooperation with the Indian community in Jamaica at this time and heartily rejoiced with them.

It is more than two years since India received her independence, and during this time was ruled by a Constituent Assembly which drew up its new Constitution, a long and elaborate one that touches on every human right irrespective of race, class, colour or creed. It combines features from those of Britain and other Commonwealth Nations and the United States, while it also establishes its own system for its Union and State Governments. With the discard of her allegiance to the King, India has elected unanim-

ously, her 1st President in the person of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, 64-year-old disciple of the late Mahatma Gandhi, and a man of inspiration and great mental ability.

In recognition of the Republic of India many men of prominence who have been closely associated with India in the past have spoken with great significance. In London, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, the last British Secretary of State for India before she had achieved her independence, spoke feelingly to India's youth, and advised them to "pursue their visions". In Singapore, the British Commissioner-General, Malcolm Macdonald, told a large public meeting that "the impact of a free India on world affairs was profound." "Already," he went on, "it leads the way to liberty for other Asian peoples."

It has created a new relationship of friendship on equality between nations in East and West. It has given impetus to peace and goodwill among free men all round the globe.

A free India which is desirous of remaining on close terms with the British Commonwealth, and endeavouring in every way to establish the friendliest relations with the peoples of every country throughout the world, is, indeed, significant at the present time of Communistic infiltration and unrest. India's men of letters and culture are gradually finding their places in one country after another as Ambassadors, and as such will not only work for peaceful political relations but for those of enduring goodwill.

Geographically situated in so favourably a position between the peoples of the Orient and the Occident, and with such innate desires for peaceful relations at heart it is not impossible that the efforts of the India of today at spreading the bounty of its age-old culture and peaceful trends will be fruitful even in the midst of the present world chaos.

NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IN CHINA

(Continued from page 3)

and other novelties are hung on the walls. Someone is then sent to the flower shop to buy some plants which play a big part in the New Year decorations. Among the favourites are "dwarf fruit trees" forced into blossom for the occasion, "Heavenly Bamboos" thick with red berries, evergreen orange and lemon trees, and the curious "Buddha's Fingers" shaped like folded hands.

Once the home is looking its best and ready to receive guests, it is important that it be protected against evil influences. This is done by means of "lucky inscriptions" which must be changed once a year. In a world where devils wait around every corner to catch the careless nappers, it behooves wise householders to renew hostages to good fortune.

Very old and very curious is the origin of the "Chih Ma," or rough portraits of the gods, and the "tere tzu" or red paper scrolls are generally used in pairs for home protection.

At the time of the "Five Rulers" a New Year sacrifice was made to Heaven, or double sacrifice of Thanksgiving and repentance. As a symbol of the latter, the people smeared the posters and lintels of their fireways with the blood of the sacrifice of a lamb, just as the Jews did at the sign of the Passover.

The use of lucky inscriptions nowadays has grown to cover all a man's possessions instead of being confined to the doors and windows of his house. Small red luck papers appear upon the well and the cart, the plough and the pack saddle.

Now China has always been in certain respects, "a land of make believe." Since paper money deceives the gods, His Majesty hit upon the happy idea of having the portraits of his warriors painted in full panoply of war. "Let them be pasted upon my gates," Tai T'sun? commanded. And believe it or not, the devils

(Continued on page 17)

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A Pen-picture of Lanchow

VIRGIN SOIL

By Elizabeth Moore

From CHINA REVIEW, London

(Continued from last issue)

Rude as the life is here, to us it is fascinating. We admit that it is the fascination of contrasts, the joy of a brief visit. If we were asked whether we should like to spend the rest of our lives here the answer would be "No". We are too used to the comforts of a modern city to want to be without them. For all that there is a peculiar attraction in some of the old things, and if we try to analyse it some curious questions emerge.

Is not our liking for simple things due to the fact that fundamentally we are simple creatures? A wheel is a terrifying thing when it is performing thousands of revolutions a minute. It has risen above our plane of fellowship; we have ceased to have kinship with it. We feel that we control it on sufferance, that at any moment it may assert its sovereignty and destroy us.

But a wheel behind an ox moves slowly—at times almost imperceptibly. We can see (and hear) it as an earthbound thing of our own dimensions. There is no mystery about it, and we hail it affectionately as an ally. A little lamp in the shadows is a heart-warming thing. It breathes defiance of the Unknown. The blaze of a city street is the same weapon turned against ourselves. And so in every case. The more wonderful and complex our inventions, the less they belong to us.

We are grateful to the people of Lanchow for this peaceful hour. They gave us a grand welcome at the airfield. The shy little girl with a bunch of chrysanthemums as big as herself was the star performer. After the reception, they drove us here and said, in effect, "Now you have a rest for one night. Nobody will bother you." Nothing could have suited us better.

General Ku Cheng-lun, Governor of Kansu, is a remarkable man. As an ex-chief of the gendarmerie he came to Kansu with the reputation of being something of a martinet. He was also said to be anti-foreign in view.

But as Governor, General Ku has made an intensive study of the people of his Province and

their food problems. He can quote, the food and population statistics of every hamlet in the Province—which is about twice the size of Britain. He has studied hard and put drive into his job of improving the people's livelihood. In short, General Ku is the kind of man who throws everything he has into whatever job he is given, whether it is controlling the gendarmerie or governing a province.

Both he and Madam Ku have shown us the utmost kindness. He is delighted that his wife is learning English and was able to speak to us in our own tongue. They both have a keen desire to promote good will and understanding between our two nations. If General Ku's politics were at any time anti-foreign, they are wide enough now to embrace the ideal of world-friendship, which is indeed the wish of all China.

At present China is bowstrung by her own family quarrels; if only she could put her house in order, she might show us not only the Wish, but the Way. "All between the five continents are brethren" as Confucius might have said had he lived today. But who can bring about a family reunion?

We linger in this peaceful Pagoda. The sunset light has nearly left us; a few orange streaks are held behind mountain clefts like a land of promise at the far end of the valley of the shadow. A bat wheels past us. The creatures of night are on the move.

All the great army of prowlers, from tigers to field mice are stealing out of their holes, creeping out of trees and ruins and caves to go forth to their labour till the dawn. Were they always night prowlers, or have they taken to it as a defence from the arch enemy, Man?

Is man the arch enemy? If a goat on a walled road saw a tiger coming in one direction and a man in the other, would he run towards the tiger or the man? Ought we to be proud of being the arch enemy of so many beautiful and intelligent creatures? These are the questions that float through lazy minds as we brood over Lanchow.

Man has had some success in subduing the earth—which reminds us! There is another Wonder of the World to be seen here.

The Governor asked us if we had seen their famous soil fertilization scheme. We said no, we had never heard of it. That surprised him. He said it had been in operation thousands of years, and was unique.

In these rural parts we are always finding things which have been in operation for thousands of years and are unique. We suspect another Lee Pin; this genius is so old that even his name is forgotten. He has no statue or temple, but deserves both. Any man who can turn a valley of dry bones into a Vale of Plenty deserves to be remembered.

Dr. Chang Fu-liang showed us the system. He has been visiting the Lanchow co-operatives, but postponed his return to Shanghai in order to welcome us. The Governor also did this. He should have left for Nanking as Food Minister, but put off his journey on our account. The never-failing courtesy ought to be underlined in our record. In many countries it has been allowed to go by default. "Life is real, life is earnest" seems to be held as an excuse for loss of consideration and polite behaviour. This is a pity. Courtesy between nations must start with courtesy between individuals. To study good manners, consideration and self-sacrifice in our dealings with each other is a way in which every one of us can do something to promote world peace.

Dr. Chang explained that Lanchow's trouble was dry soil. It is loose shifting stuff on a hard rock bed, typical of the loess regions. Vast tracts of the Northwest are barren because of it, but the unknown genius of Lanchow was not satisfied that nothing could be done about it. Said he:

"Rain is rare, but there is much dew. Why does not the dewfall moisten the soil? Is it not because there is no depth to which it can penetrate? Assuredly, and therefore the morning sun licks up all the moisture in the first hour of day. How can this be avoided? We cannot blast away the sub-surface rock to make the soil deeper. We cannot build an awning over the land to shield it from the sun, and even if we could, it would be useless, for we need the sun for the plants. What then can be done—or can't it?"

He looked for inspiration to the

(Continued on page 11)

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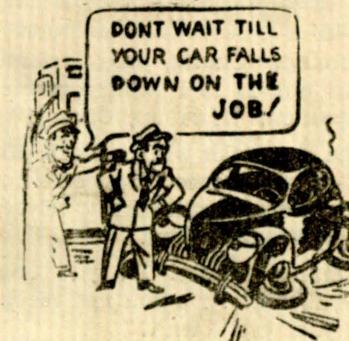
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THE BOY AND THE SERPENT

By Wood Moy

From EAST WIND

(Continued from last Issue)

ONE last try! He, Chang, must roam the entire country. For months Chang travelled through the cities, the towns, the villages. He inquired of the learned herbalists, the owners of animal shops, the quacks, he visited the savage tribes in the interior of China, patronized monasteries, fought his way through snow and the cold of the mountains leading to Tibet; there were no places in the whole of old Cathay he did not search. But in vain. He started for home empty-handed, ragged and weakened, and discouraged. He decided to pass by the village where he grew up as a boy, to seek the advice of Lao Sze, his Old Master.

As he walked, familiar scenes flashed before his eyes. Why, there's the old mud house where he used to live. And there the beautiful golden meadow with its bubbling stream! Ah, how happy were those days! The once beaten path was covered with grass. He stood in the middle of the field and surveyed it with loving remembrances. Then he threw himself upon the tall grasses and wept his disappointed and tired heart out, till he fell asleep. He was still a boy not yet twenty years old.

A voice, soft and mellow, as from a distance, seemed to penetrate his unconscious mind as he stirred in his sleep. It was saying:

"Chang, Chang, old friend! Wake up! It is I. Your former companion. Wake up, Chang!"

The boy woke with a start. His half-opened eyes noticed nothing. Then again that velvety voice drifted to him.

"Chang, Chang! Do you not remember me? Do you not recognize your old friend?"

Now Chang was fully awake. He recoiled as he stared at a huge serpent lying in front of him. It was a gorgeous looking creature, with a body as large as a tree trunk and a head as enormous as a man's body. Colours of the rainbow, enhanced by the rays of the sun, flashed from its scabrous length! The boy was repulsed by the immensity of the animal and yet fascinated by its beauty.

"Do not be frightened, Chang,"

soothed the snake. "We are old friends. I have always wondered what happened after we parted."

"But you can speak," Chang stammered.

"It is through you I learned the language of man," replied the serpent humorously, "Lao Sze was an excellent teacher. Unknowingly he taught a dumb snake to talk, but come, I want to hear all about you."

No longer frightened, though still a bit squeamish about his company, Chang let flow his troubles to this interested listener, concluding his monologue with:

"I am helpless. My mother will die. There is nothing I can do."

The snake did not say anything. It was thinking of years ago when this boy supplied it with food and water, and cared for it with such tenderness and love. Finally, it said:

"Dear friend, I sympathize with you. If you will promise me one thing, I will help you."

"Anything," Chang vowed elatedly.

"You must not cut more than the size of a fingernail from my gall bladder. Even then I will be greatly hurt."

Chang prostrated himself before the kind snake and solemnly pledged to do as the animal instructed. After some advice, the serpent straight away opened its mouth wide. The boy crawled down to the stomach. There he cut through the wall of that organ and with his knife sliced a tiny piece from the gall bladder. Sewing up the slit he made, Chang backed out of the serpent's opened mouth. Immediately after the boy emerged, the snake squirmed and twisted and rolled in pain. After a while it quieted down.

Still suffering it said, "Now, hurry home, Chang. And come back and tell me of your mother's cure."

CHANG's return was just in time. His mother was dying. At once the doctor mixed his herbs. With the little piece of tissue, he brewed the mixture. It was a bitter solution. The sick woman was forced to swallow the extract at one gulp. Gradu-

ally the tint of health returned to the face of the invalid lady. In three weeks she was better than she was six months ago. But it was not a complete cure. She must still be confined to her bed.

One day the physician said to Chang, "My boy, you must try to obtain a bit more gall bladder. Then your mother would be absolutely healed."

What would you do? Of course! For your mother you would go begging. So Chang took a trip back to the meadow to plead for the help of his friend, the snake again. Friend serpent was waiting for him.

Chang explained: "The doctor said that a bit more would bring my mother back to perfect health. Would you please assist me just once more?"

The serpent's eyes wavered and its tongue flickered distastefully about. "You must understand," he told Chang, "that great pain was endured the last time. Another second and I would have clamped my mouth shut. It would

be dangerous for you to try again."

The boy entreated the snake to allow him to cut just a tiny bit more. After that, no matter what happened, he would ask no more. For old times sake, the animal sighingly acquiesced.

Once again Chang entered the cavernous mouth of the gigantic reptile. Once again he slit open the stomach wall. And as his knife was raised to carve a portion of the bladder, a disturbing thought possessed him. He hesitated. Supposing this second treatment would not be sufficient to totally heal his mother? Then he would have to bother his friend again. Why not cut a larger piece? Wouldn't it solve everything? Chang decided it would. Holding the gall bladder with his left hand, he struck deep with his knife! Alas! Friend serpent found the pain too great to bear. Instinctively it clamped shut its mouth. The boy, because of his greediness, died instantly from suffocation.

At home, the mother waited anxiously for her son's return.



Jamaican Proverbs

Their Meaning and Significance

Nearly all the proverbs that have appeared recently emanated from those persons who had direct contacts with the "old-time somebodies," who spoke chiefly in the dialect of the proverbs. One source in particular was influenced by an intelligent mother, who, though not brilliantly educated, possessed native intelligence, and commonsense of a high degree. I heard the daughter make use of these trite and sensible expressions from time to time and questioned her. "I got them from my mother, who told me that she read all Solomon's Books," she explained. Therein lies the secret: the sentiments in Negro dialect — Solomon who wrote the Hebrew Proverbs as they are recorded in "Ecclesiastes or The Preacher," "The Songs of Solomon," in addition to the "Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel."

One punkin plague basket.

Since this proverb appeared in the issue of June 11, 1949, I have discovered a new slant to its meaning. A neighbour has a step-son, 13, who is the plague of his life. William is playful; and he plays the truant when he should be in school.

I tried to console neighbour John but his reply was in the words of the proverb. "Ah, Mr. Joe, if one punkin plague me so, what you think if I did have more than the one."

What's sweet monkey ah it done him money.

What delights the monkey is the thing which causes his money to run out quickly: A truism that is applicable to humans as well. As regards the latter, anyone so taken in is called a Cunoo-munoo, which means a fool whose money can be extorted with ease.

When big darg laugh, little darg mus' lop him tail.

Big and lillie darg means big and little dogs; mus' lop him tail means dawdle the tail between the hind legs, or under the belly, an indication of submission. This proverb shows the power of superior authority.

Darg facey him waan fight boar.

Another dog proverb that demonstrates a different viewpoint of dog character. In this case the impudent dog foreshadows a combat in which he is likely to be out-matched. Often the fight between the dog and the wild

boar, (a running battle at first), ends up with the boar taking up a position in a narrow gap with his tail end against a wall. The dog leads the attack each time; the boar on the defensive. In the final bout the dog misses his aim; The boar's tusk finds its mark, and the dog goes howling with a wide gash in his side. The old-time negroes of the hinterland, (scene of the wild boar's lair), with whom this proverb originates, describe the last act of this encounter thus:—

The Boar: (recalling an old grudge cries, "Ah wi' pay yuh!" — ("I will pay you").

The Dog:— (Unwilling to give further credit) replies, "NOW! NOW!! NOW!!!"

Ef yuh walk wid John-Crow yuh wi' eat dead meat.

If you keep company with the crow, you will eat dead meat: A case of, "Evil communications corrupt good manners" — The Bible.

Compare with the following proverb dealt with in a former issue:

Ef yuh sleep wid darg yuh wi' catch him fleas.

Henry Van Dyke quite truthfully writes: "Individuality is the salt of common life. You may have to live in a crowd, but you may not have to live it, nor subsist on its food."

Me ah grung, yuh ah mat.

I am the ground or floor on which you have to lie. Therefore you cannot afford to ignore or abuse me, your indispensable benefactor. In the olden days many poor people lived in cottages that were not floored. A straw mat had to be spread on the ground to prevent the sleeper from contracting a cold, which may lead to other ailments. The sleeper is indebted to both factor for the restful healthy sleep that he gets. Neither the one nor the other alone could secure this.

Ef you badda me ah mek you clem smoke.

Badda means bother; clem means climb.

Climbing smoke means doing the impossible. Such is the attitude of mind to which botheration may drive one.

Facey darg w' get de blow.

A forward, impudent dog will get the blow: "meet his Waterloo," (as the English saying goes), physically and otherwise. A warning to presumptuous, overbearing persons.

PLUTO.

Time went by and no Chang. Without the required medicine the mother's life slowly ebbed away. At last, from grief for her absent son and from her affliction, she passed away.

The burial was a grand one. And one filled with a superstitious omen. For when the coffin was lowered into its place, and dirt was filling it in, a tiny snake, beautiful with the colours of the rainbow, appeared and then disappeared into the grave.

The End.

VIRGIN SOIL

(Continued from page 9)

sky, but found it not. His eye rested on the tooth-edged mountains of the north, but there was no help in them. He surveyed the stony tract of a dried-up water-course to the south . . . of what use was that? Most of us would have passed it over with a single scornful glance, but the genius found hope in the sight. There was his answer! He rose that hour, took his basket, and covered his land with pebbles, packing them together like a cobble-stoned road.

Every night the dew seeped down between the pebbles and moistened the earth. Every day the sun beat upon the pebbles but could not get at the moisture. To plant a seed, he merely lifted a stone, popped in the seed, and re-pebbled the place. In due course the young plant struggled up between the stones and grew with their heads in full sunlight and their roots in the moist earth. And behold the land is moist even unto this day.

Whether or not this is scientific agriculture, we wouldn't know. We rather think it isn't. No doubt our experts could prove by diagrams that the earth would become so sour that nothing would grow in it. If so, they could be answered quite simply with a return ticket to Lanchow. Here they can see once-barren hills that are now gardens full of melons, vegetables and grain. And every square inch has been pebbled for thousands of years.

Surely even the most unreflective mind must be stirred by the romance of this story. Here at one time the land was made fertile by a mountain lake fed by a river. In the course of time the water shrank from the lake and the river disappeared below the rocks. Presently all was dry and barren. But even as it went away, the lake remembered the work it had to do, and bequeathed a legacy of good stones for

the purpose. All that was needed were eyes to see it.

If this is a parable, it has at least a practical meaning. We wonder how many other ills we have put up with because we have eyes that see not and ears that cannot hear. After all, the most complex discovery of modern physics is not new; it has been in the world since the dawn of time, waiting to be seen.

Who would have thought that stones and flints which the ordinary gardener curses so heartily would have proved to be agents of plenty elsewhere. We remember William Cobbett's friend Blount, the Hampshire farmer who employed all the poor people of the district to pick stones out of his soil. No doubt he reviled the flints each time they knocked the beak of his plough, and he would have been surprised to learn that in distant China the poor people of the district were employed in putting stones into the soil. Again and again we find illustrations of the peculiar genius of the Chinese for winning triumphs in the most unprofitable fields.

All light has gone from the sky now, except for the stars which burn more fiercely on these cold heights. Down in the city there are fugitive gleams of lanterns, but it is all quite remote from the Great White Way.

We should like to stay here all night, just thinking of what we have seen on this wonderful tour. The Governor's supper party, for instance; every moment of it was interesting because of the diverse characters of the guests, among whom were Tibetans, Mongols, Chinese, Mohammedans, Christians (including some missionaries) and Prince Teh, the son of the Governor of the neighbouring province of Ching-hai, a vast area to the west, formerly part of Tibet.

We might, we say, stay here all night—but for the fact that our feet are frozen. Tomorrow is the festival of Shuang Chiang—the Descent of Frost. The frost has got here before the festival. The wistful beauty of a hot-water bottle takes its place. We go to find one.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were known as the ideal couple—never a dispute or a harsh word between them. Thompson, asked how he did it, explained:

"Why, it's a very simple arrangement. In the morning she does what she wants and in the afternoon I do what she wants."



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RUSSIA

"Oh gloomy and dreary! and no one to stretch out a hand, In hours when the soul nears disaster . . . Desire! but what use is an empty desire without end? And the years, the best years, but fly faster."

Mikhail Lermontov:

GREECE

"Love like a mountain-wind upon an oak, Falling upon me, shakes me leaf and bough."

Sappho:

"Love." 610 B.C.

EGYPT

"Homage to thee, O Ra, who wakest life from slumber! Thou risest! Thou shinest! Thy radiant face appears! Millions of years have passed, — we can not count their number, — Millions of years shall come — Thou art above the years."

"Book of the Dead"
3500 B. C.

CHILI

"Road, route, footpath, alley of solitude with its myrmidons, Adorned with women and cities, beside oceans, or tragic and mathematical tree by this same great despairing beach Roadway of mourning, street of sorrows, pathway of tears, Great sunny lane blooming like whetfield, like mountain, like breast of serpent, like lake of gold, like crazed god, All go toward the same shore . . ."

Pablo de Rokha:
"Elegy for all Ages."

POT POURRI OF THOUGHT

JAMAICA

"From Time's seraglio, where dwell the years Behind the leathern curtain of their fate, One has escaped — close-veiled and eager-eyed With finger to her lips and backward glance At perils passed . . . The figure beckons, and with leaping heart, We follow hoping, always, that unveiled We yet may see her, but the hope is vain, Only the rose-tipped fingers and the eyes (Those wide, dark eyes in which all wisdom lies) We may envisage . . ."

V. M. C.: "January."

KOREA

"All life is shadow in my room tonight. I know not if I wake or if I sleep— Music breaths through the silence, can it be Wind in the shadow pine tree — or a song Drawn from a hidden harp that has no string?"

Choi Choong:
"In the Night."
2nd Century B.C.

CHINA

"The years of a lifetime do not reach a hundred, Yet they contain a thousand years' sorrow. When days are short and the dull nights long, Why not take a lamp and wander forth? If you want to be happy you must do it now, There is no waiting till an after-time."

Anon: "Seventeen Old

Poems. 1st Century B.C.

AMERICA

"In Heaven a spirit doth dwell Whose heart-strings are a lute; None sing so wildly well As the angel Israfel, And the giddy stars (so legends tell) Ceasing their hymns, attend the spell Of his voice, all mute."

Edgar Allan Poe:

"Israfel."

ENGLAND

"That night I heard the New Year bells Ringing from Surrey into Kent; Over the midnight fields and hills, Running the music went. In a strange bed, too strange for sleep, I lay, and felt a warmer air, A darkness in the dark more deep. A presence waiting there . . . Eagerly out I stretched my hand The happy certainty to know— Like a light kiss upon my hand— It had begun to snow!"

Sylvia Lind:
"Memory of Childhood."

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PERSONS PLACES THINGS

By OLD JOE

PERSONS

LOSSES AND GAINS
(Continued from last issue)

Throughout the decade from 1880 to 1890 the churches were constantly weakened by the emigration of young male members, and sometimes of whole families to other lands especially Central America. In 1879 the French Panama Company was formed for connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by a canal through the Isthmus of Panama. Agents with glowing prospectuses passed through the West Indies to collect labourers, to whom were offered high wages and many other advantages, if they would enter the Company's service. They were not told how high the price of things would be, how rough and hard the housing and general conditions of living, or how the swamp of the proposed course, and the insanitary condition of the towns at each end made the canal zone a hotbed of fever. Nor were they told with what contempt and harshness the ordinary black labourers would be treated by their "bosses," still less how law-abiding, self-respecting Jamaicans, accustomed to chastity and sobriety would be expected to live the godless, intemperate life common on the zone, and the cruellest pressure brought to bear on them to make them do this.

Thousands of our more vigorous men accepted the offer, and shipload after shipload was borne away south to Panama, too often leaving the cottage home with wife and children and old parents unprovided for. Hundreds of these men died in Panama, were buried off-hand as "Jamaica stiffs" without world being sent to their relatives in Jamaica; and the missionaries here were constantly petitioned by distressed black women to find out whether father, husband, or son, who had gone to Panama, was yet alive.

The labourers who returned were strangely altered, both in morals and manners. Public life in some districts was visibly affected for the worse, especially perhaps in the matter of manners. The failure of the Canal Company, in 1889, and the flocking back of a number of Jamaican labourers without employment, was financially disastrous, but it was a good thing for the Jamaican Churches when the work on the canal shut down.

With the resumption of the work under the American Government in 1903 the emigration set in again, and again the churches suffered the loss and

inconvenience of their more enterprising young people going to Panama; but at the other end the labourers were very much better looked after, properly housed, cared for in sickness, and punctually paid. The wonderful hygienic enterprise of the United States' doctors and engineers has completely changed the health record of the canal zone, and while the two cities — Colon and Panama — which are only partially under America's control, are still centres of much moral evil, the locations along the canal course are well-ordered and healthy. Most to be commented are two grand rules: First, that no strong drink shall be used during working days on the canal; and second, that no man shall be admitted into the Canal Commission's service who brings with him as his companion a woman to whom he has not been married.

PLACES

CAYS OF JAMAICA
(Continued from last issue)

The Morant Cays are situated about 33 miles to the south-east of Morant Point, and consist of three small islets. The sea birds arrive at these cays in large numbers during the March and April months, and the islets are covered with their eggs, which are collected and conveyed in schooners to Jamaica. Later in the summer, turtles are caught, but the supply is becoming scarcer every year.

The Pedro Cays are situated some 40 to 50 miles to the south-west of Portland Point on the south coast of Jamaica, and consist of four cays or islets known respectively as North-east, Middle, South-west and South Cays. Temporary huts had been erected on these cays and coconut trees planted on the N. E. Cay by some Jamaican planters in St. Thomas-in-the-East in about 1825 for the use of shipwrecked sailors, but all these trees, it is believed, have since died.

THINGS

PLANT LIFE

The Jew Plum, fairly common in Kingston, is a native of the Society Islands Polynesia, and is cultivated for its fruit. It was among the plants found on board the French ship which was captured by Captain Marshall of H.M.S. "Flora," in June 1782, and with the mango, cinnamon etc., was sent to Mr. Hinton East's garden at Gordon Town. It was again introduced early in 1792 by Captain Bligh of H.M.S. "Providence" who brought it from Tahiti with the breadfruit and other plants. Of the plants brought by Captain Bligh, 3 were landed at Greenwich and 9 were landed at Port Morant as a general depot.

Legumes — The most important legumes used as cultivated past-

ure plants are the true clovers, sweet clovers, bur clovers, alfalfa or lucerne, cow peas, soya beans, vetches, velvet beans, and Japanese Clover. Stockmen often use the word clover to designate various herbaceous plants of several generations of the pea family, but here the term is confined to species of the genus Trifolium. About 275 species of clover have been discovered, but only about half a dozen are extensively cultivated in the United States, whence we get our supply in Jamaica. They are annual, biennial and perennial, and occur most abundantly in the temperature parts of the Northern Hemisphere. Among those most valuable as pasture foliage, Alsike Clover and White Clover are of first importance. Of less pasture value are Red Clover and Crimson Clover but as hay plants they are second to none.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

It is not generally known that Jamaica can make the proud claim that it was a collection of Sloane in Jamaica that was the nucleus around which the British Museum was later created. Sir Hans Sloane, the famous Naturalist and Physician, came out to Jamaica in 1687 as physician to Christopher Monk, Second Duke

of Arblemarle. He had previously exhibited great interest in natural history studies. After making the collection of around 800 objects in Jamaica, he later published a book on the subject, and followed this up with several well known works. The collection was expanded during his lifetime, and in his will he bequeathed it to the British people on certain terms which were gratefully accepted. The present site of the British Museum, formerly the Town House of the Earl of Montague, was purchased to house the Sloane and Cottonian collections. This institution afterwards became known as the British Museum, and is considered to be one of the finest organisations of its kind in the world.

Celia: "If I should leave you, what would you do?"

Dan: "I'd go almost crazy."

Celia: "Would you marry again?"

Dan: "No, I wouldn't go as crazy as all that."

Cunning is the art of concealing our own defects, and discovering other people's weaknesses.



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TALKING IT OVER

By ELIZABETH MARTIN

Dear Miss Martin,

I feel that I am becoming the family grudge. All the unpleasant and dreary little jobs around the house are passed on to me. The whole family, my parents three sisters and two brothers, just take it for granted that when things need attending to I will do them. They don't even pay me the compliment of asking me — they just say — "Oh, Lou will look after that!" or "Leave it to Lou"! How can I break them of it without hurting them, or causing any unpleasantness?

Lou.

Dear Lou,

It would appear that you are a very competent and comforting person to have around. The fact that they feel they can leave things to you and everything will be alright proves that you are capable.

But I must agree with you that taking things for granted can be very irritating, and also I am afraid that you are spoiling your brothers and sisters. Therefore, it is time to put a stop to it. Later when they leave home and have no Lou around to take charge of things they will be ill equipped to deal with their own problems.

Now there is no reason why your refusal should cause unpleasantness or hard feelings. A refusal can always be given with a smile and in a kindly way, and yet be as definite as a downright "No!"

Assert yourself and develop your own character, let them see that you no longer intend to be imposed upon and that they must learn to do things for themselves. After a time they will learn to respect your independence and value your help and your opinion. Once you have said no, never give in to their arguments or pleadings, or you will never succeed.

E. M.

Dear Miss Martin,

I am engaged and hope to get married in June. I have only known my fiance for a year. I love him dearly, of course, but there are times when he seems like a complete stranger to me. It is rather difficult to explain just what I mean, but he will express an opinion that is completely the opposite to mine. Also it seems that his ideas of marriage are very different to my own.

Do you think I should put off my wedding until I know him better and can get up the courage to discuss these intimate matters with him?

K. L.

Dear K. L.

It is very apparent that you are far from ready to marry. How can you expect to live with this man in the intimacy of married life, if you cannot now discuss things with him and learn his ideas on life. Remember it will be too late, when you are already married to him, to decide that you are not compatible.

Many young couples would be far more contented and happy today if they had discussed many matters and got all differences straightened out before marriage.

We are no longer living in Victorian days when the more intimate things of life were simply never discussed. Get to know your man now and you will learn whether or not you can live the rest of your life with him.

E. M.

Dear Miss Martin,

I have a problem and would like to get your advice. I'm still in my teens. I do not consider myself very thin but my arms are very small and I am "elbow-bone" conscious. I would like to have bigger arms and have been doing some free-arm exercises lately but that doesn't seem to help. Can you suggest what I should do to get bigger arms.

J. K. W.

Dear J. K. W.

Have you stopped to consider the fact that as you are now you are well proportioned? Your arms are now in keeping with the rest of your body.

There is no harm in doing your arms exercises to keep them supple and firm. Another splendid way to improve your arms is

swimming. Breast stroke, of course, with a good hard push against the water.

Naturally, having thin elbows calls for more attention and care. Here are one or two hints — never rest your elbows on hard surfaces as this tends to stretch the skin causing wrinkles and discoloration. Rub a little cold cream or good skin food into your elbows at night and leave it on. If the skin is inclined to be dirty-looking and rough, scrub gently with strainer pod or nailbrush and dry well before applying cream.

Learn to carry your arms gracefully and you need not be self-conscious because they are not plumper. As you get older and develop so will your arms.

E. M.

Your worst enemies are those unknown people who know that if you knew them you would be thoroughly disgusted with them.

Fourth for bridge!"

"Okay!"

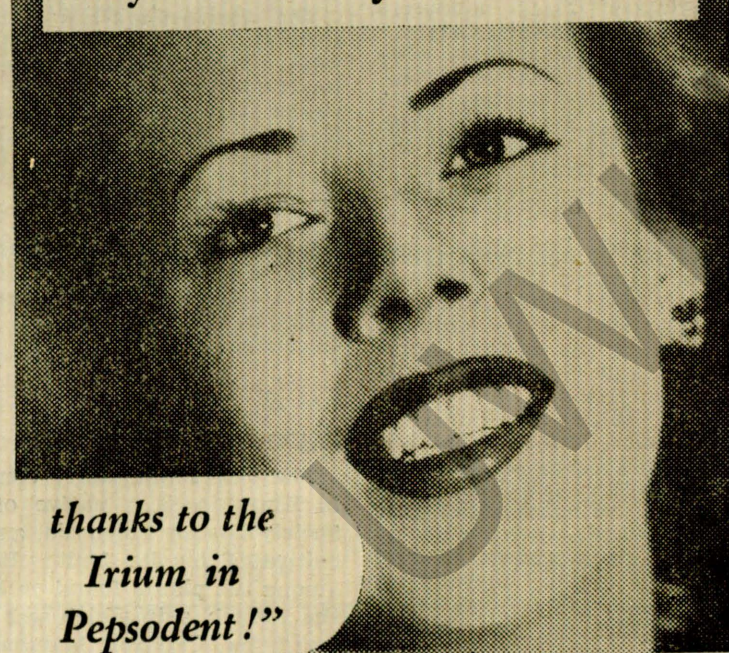
"That's great! Now all we need's a third."

Men of humour are in some degree men of genius; wits are rarely so, although a man of genius may amongst other fits possess wit.

Chinese visiting Kingston will find excellent accommodation at the Leahings' residence, 8 Upper Musgrave Ave., H.W.T. Moderate terms by day or week. Telephone 7193.

Chinese family on Lyndhurst Road will rent part of house to reliable Chinese adults. Board optional. Apply Ronald Chang, c/o 69 Princess Street, Phone 3067.

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IN PARENTHESIS

Girls who stroke your hair are often after your scalp.

"Women are funny creatures," remarked George Shelton. "My girl can squeeze into a six inch girdle, but takes both doors off trying to get into a garage."

"Goodness, Mildred, it's been six years since I've seen you. You look lots older."

"Really, Jean dear, and I don't believe I would have recognized you if it were not for your dress and hat."

A political scientist declares that the entire human race is moving to the left. Except motorists.

Young Politician (to old politician): How do you handle your election speeches so well?

Old Politician: You see, first I tell them what I'm going to tell them; then I tell them; and then I tell them what I've told them.

Head Waiter: "Would monsieur prefer Spanish, French or Italian cooking?"

Customer: "I don't mind — I want a boiled egg."

Hubby was in an uproar because the wife had let someone give her a counterfeit bill in change. 'How in the world could you be dumb enough to let anyone pass a counterfeit bill on you?' he shouted. 'How could I tell?' she answered. 'You never let me see real money often enough for me to know the difference!'

A supercilious Englishman was talking to a Scotchman. "You know, in Scotland, the men eat oatmeal; and, in England, we feed it to our horses."

"An' that's the very reason that English horses an' Scotch men are the finest in the world!"

"You seem to be an able-bodied man. You ought to be strong enough to work."

"I know, mum. And you seem to be beautiful enough to go on the stage, but evidently you prefer the simple life."

"Step into the kitchen, and I'll see if I can't stir up a meal for you."

A man was charged with stealing a horse, and after a long trial the jury acquitted him. Later in the day the man came back to see the judge who had presided at the hearing.

"Judge," he said, "I want to get out a warrant for that damned lawyer of mine."

"What's the matter," asked the judge in surprise. "He won your acquittal didn't he? What do you want to have your lawyer arrested for?"

"Well, it's this way, Your Honour," replied the man, "you see, I didn't have the money to pay him his fee, so he went and took the horse I stole."

The lady visitor gave Timmy an orange.

"What do you say to the nice lady, Timmy?" his mother asked.

"Peel it," said Timmy promptly.

She fears that she has lost her grip.

That she no longer is a dish; He took her on a fishing trip And all he did was fish.

Mrs. — "James, I'm convinced I heard that man on the street corner insult me as we went by."

Mr. — (looking back nervously) — "Well, you can't expect me to have the courage of your convictions."

A man was playing golf with his wife one day. Driving for the fifth hole he sliced viciously. The ball departed from its intended course and struck a woman who was also golfing with her husband.

The second husband, quite incensed, walked over to the offending player.

"Why don't you watch what you are doing?" he shouted. "You have struck my wife!"

"Too bad," said the first man calmly. "Here's a ball. Take a shot at mine."

"I'm terribly sorry, doctor," apologized the suburban patient, "to make you drive out here so far."

"It's no trouble at all, Mrs. Brown," replied the doctor. "I have another call to make near here, so I'm really killing two birds with one stone."

Adversity is the trial of principles. Without it, a man hardly knows whether he is honest or not.

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FAR EAST BOOKS

TIDES FROM THE WEST

By Chiang Monlin

Dr. Chiang Monlin is one of China's elder statesmen with a wide background and knowledge, not only of his own country, but of also the United States and Europe. His personal history has been varied: coming from a well-to-do family with strong beliefs in the China of tradition, he passed the Imperial Civil Examination and then went to America for further study after being involved in some of the early student struggles against the tottering Manchu Regime. On his return after the revolution he came into contact with Dr. Sun Yat-sen and from that time on played a leading part in the Nationalist Government. For 15 years he was the Chancellor of the National Peking University, the best known and most efficient Government university; for two years he was Minister of Education, at the present time is the secretary general of the Executive Yuan, or cabinet. Dr. Chiang has therefore a story to tell of paramount interest, not only of the growth of modern China, but also of its emergence from Imperial feudalism to present day nationalism.

Around this story Dr. Chiang has built up a history of Chinese culture and the result of the impact of western civilization within the last hundred years. Beginning with the cession of Hong Kong and the opium wars he has traced the influences of foreign pressures and aggressions; with his knowledge and understanding of western philosophy he is usually fair in his criticisms and regards the more unfortunate results of western contacts in sorrow rather than anger. The most valuable part of the book is the historical rather than the personal, and his views on the application of western style democracy in the East should be read by those critics who are always ready to decry the present political situation and who tend to overlook the fundamental differences of temperament and ideologies between the East and the West.

Dr. Chiang is first and foremost a scholar; many a time I have watched him walking by the lake in Kunming in his blue gown, with a slight smile on his kindly face puzzling over the latest problem connected with the running of a large university

which war had placed two thousand miles from its rightful home. When solution does finally come to China, it will be from men and women with Dr. Chiang's objectivity of outlook, would that there were more of them.

M. H. in China
Review, London.

THE CHINESE EARTH.

By Shen Tseng-Wen.

The author of these short stories comes of a military family and joined the army himself at the age of 14. During his first months of service he saw 700 executions by decapitation. Leaving the army at 20, he began to educate himself. This is the background from which emerges this collection of tales of soldiers, peasants, servants and other sons and daughters of the Chinese earth, by the greatest living Chinese writer.

The translators, Ching Ti and Robert Payne, say "In *The Chinese Earth*, you will find the people of China as they really are. He has hidden nothing, revealed everything; and what is strange is not that the world he has created is beautiful, but that it is so complete." The author's knowledge of human nature is as exceptional as his mastery of narrative. A great range of character and experience is por-

trayed; brutality, coarseness, poverty, danger. He is not concerned with morals or ethics, but rather with stern realism; yet, fundamentally a poet and a seeker after beauty, the true artist's creative imagination gives us a literary delight.

P. H. in China Review,
London.

THE STRAIN OF HARMONY — MEN AND WOMEN IN THE HISTORY OF CHINA.

By Bernard Martin.

The men and women in this book are sages, saints, scoundrels, soldiers, statesmen and sovereigns. The first lived more than four thousand years ago, while the last still controls his country's destiny. Each biography, of one who has earned fame or notoriety, is a cameo, fashioned with infinite care by a craftsman in love with his art.

Mr. Martin fails to hide his wealth of learning beneath a cloak of simplicity, earning the gratitude of his readers for beguiling them with a story of uncommon quality. The book contains some lovely photographs of China by Hedda Morrison, while the illustrations of the illustrious in Chinese history make it a worthy gift.

P. H. in China Review,
London.

FEBRUARY 4, 1950.

THE PAGODA



The South China No. 1 Basketball Team who have lost only one game so far in the league is tied in first place with the Y.M.C.A. team. Standing (left to right): W. Y. Wong, Stanford Chin, Egerton Chin Loy (captain) Young Foo, L. Lee: (kneeling) Noel Ho, Joe Young, K. Y. Wong.

The C.A.C. No. 2 Basketball Team: Standing (left to right) — Byron Kong, W. Nam, Herbert Lyew, Donald Kong; (kneeling) George Liu, Louis Lee, Easton Cha Camp.

NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IN CHINA

(Continued from page 8)

respected the pictures as they did the originals and kept away. So that is how the generals came to be "gate gods" and from protectors of the palace were ordered to guard the homes of the people.

Of all the heavenly portraits and earthly talismans that must be renewed at the New Year, the most important is that of the Tsao Wang, or "Kitchen God," who presides over every home in China. On the 23rd or 24th of the 12th Moon, "this earth ascends to heaven" and makes his report to the Jade Emperor, or Supreme Deity, on the behaviour of the household in which he lives. His going and coming are great events and must be suitably celebrated.

The origin of the "Guardian of the Hearth" is shrouded in mystery. When and where he actually came into China is unknown. Some say he was once a mortal, others, that he succeeded to the mantle of a huge elaborate divinity, perhaps a god of fire. But two things concerning him are certain; first, that he is one of the oldest of the Chinese gods, and second, one of the best loved. Taoists and Buddhists have both adopted him into their Pantheons and he is still worshipped in almost every pagan family. The people look upon him as a kind of benevolent spy and before he departs to make his report on their behaviour, they do their best to be favoured by him. Some cover the lips of his portrait with honey or sugar in order that he may say sweet things only; some wet them with wine to make him cheery and tolerant, and all alike pre-

pare him as good a "departure feast" as they can afford.

CURIOUSLY enough it is the man, not the woman who says the prayers for the lucky voyage and safe return of the Hearth God. Although the kitchen is the wife's province, it is her husband who bids him farewell and greets him when he comes back. Why? No one seems able to explain. Perhaps because Tsao Wang is too important a personage to be sent off by anyone but the Master of the House.

The "Kitchen God" is supposed to remain away for seven days, going through the shortways of heaven, and while he is absent the household lives freely. The women may comb their hair in the kitchen, if they feel like it—a thing strictly forbidden when he is at home.

The service to Tsao Wang concludes as most ceremonies do in China, with a salvo of firecrackers, which, like so many other apparently inconsequential things has a commoner meaning. Its origin dates back into the dim past when a report of the doings of each family was written on pieces of bamboo, read to the gods by the head of the house, and afterwards burned.

The Chinese themselves say that firecrackers and fireworks are useful for four purposes:

- (1) To terrify bad spirits by their noise and drive devils away.
- (2) To summon Peace in the same way as the obsolete "Peaceful Drum."
- (3) To welcome the Good Spirits at the New Year.

(4) To attract prosperity and riches during the coming 12th month.

Now money plays an important part in the New Year festival. Depending on suitable sacrifices to the Gods, and especially to the "God of Wealth," a man believes he will be lucky or unlucky in his business ventures. Moreover, before the New Year dawns outstanding accounts must be closed and debts paid. The Chinese linking tradition together have to pay what they owe three times a year, namely: at the Dragon Festival, the 5th of the fifth moon; at the Harvest Festival, the 15th of the eighth moon; and at the end of the 12th moon.

A person without resources used to take refuge in the Temple of the City God where theatrical performances went on con-

tinuously for several days. As custom permitted no one to interrupt a play, a ne'er-do-well could not be arrested so long as he remained in the sanctuary of the Theatre Temple.

In tradition "watch night" corresponds to our New Year's Eve. People then had time for dressing in new clothes, the women putting on their brightest silks and satins and arranging their hair elaborately with fresh flowers, the children donning scarlet suits, "tiger caps" and "pussy shoes" with real whiskers sewn on them. And from sunrise on the last day of the dying year until sun rise on the first day of the New Year, all were supposed to remain awake. To dose off even in one's house was tactless, but to do so in the house of a relative or friend brought decisive bad luck to host and guest.

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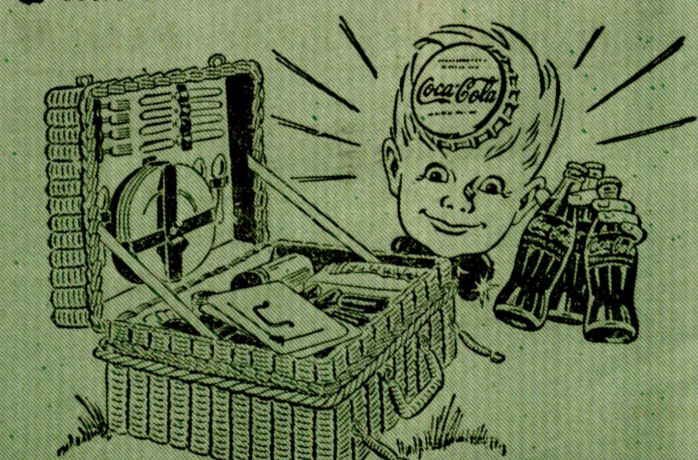
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"CHEESECAKE CLAUSE" CUTIE

Peggie Castle, the Mills College graduate who was signed by Universal-International Studio with a "must" clause in her contract requiring "cheesecake" publicity photos for the first five years of her career, will make her first appearance on the screen in "Woman in Hiding," starring Ida Lupino, Stephen McNally and Howard Duff.

THE CHINESE ENIGMA

By The Right Hon. Lord Ammon

DURING my recent visit to China, as a member of the British Parliamentary Goodwill Mission, few things impressed me more than the crowded conditions of the cities and towns. "China's Teeming Millions" took on a new significance. So enormous is the population (one fourth of the human race) that hand labour without mechanical aid predominates.

The crowds of rickshaws drawn by men in Shanghai give rise to traffic blocks the like of which are unknown in any other country — not to mention the thrills one gets from the acrobatic feats of the rickshaw men as they lodge the relatively small amount of motor traffic. Then there are the bearers, who carry enormous weights on poles resting on the shoulders of two men, or sometimes women.

China is primarily an agricultural country. This is both its strength and its weakness. Its strength because no foreign foe

has been able to bring the widely scattered agricultural population into complete subjection. Its weakness because of the low standard of living which exists for most of the population who continue to use the primitive methods of their fore-fathers. Hand labour predominates and earth is tilled, crops grown and gathered with implements which must be similar to those used in the time of Abraham. With modern machinery, as used by Western nations, China could not only feed herself, but half the world. Now, alas! China lacks food and people live under dreadful conditions.

Such is the legacy of eleven years continuous warfare — and civil war still persists!

The irony of it all is that the Chinese are a peace-loving, industrious, thrifty, patient, kindly and good-humoured people.

The children know little of childhood and are at work almost as soon as they can walk; red-rimmed eyes and sore heads tell

tales of neglect and under-nourishment.

But not by any means is it all gloom. The youth of China looks, dreams and plans; the universities and middle schools are crowded. Despite war-damaged buildings, lack of equipment, textbooks and furniture, staff and students set to work to redeem the wasted years and to equip and prepare themselves for the time ahead.

Foreigners are not in high favour, save the British, whose prestige is high. I was privileged to meet with and address many assemblies of young people in school and university and was myself inspired — not the least when during the course of my hurried journeyings I came across incidents and testimonies to credit British United Aid to China's magnificent work.

China, one of the greatest rice-producing countries, has to import rice! Meanwhile the Chinese farmer and peasant is doggedly working away to restore the war-torn land to fruitful fields.

Whither China, with its four thousand years of recorded history with a cultural inheritance second to none in the world, with its extremes of wealth and poverty, learning and culture, peace-loving and war-torn? The answer means much to the future of the human race.

HEALTH FOR ALL

Checking Up on Health

If we read in the paper that a train hit an automobile and a man was killed, we are shocked at the tragic waste of life and wonder why the driver did not take time to "stop, look and listen."

It is just as tragic when people fail to take time to check up on their health. Each year many lives are lost because people take chances with health.

There are some diseases which have no specific outward symptoms in their early stages, yet they are deadly diseases and, if unchecked, will cause death. Tuberculosis, the greatest disease-killer of persons between the ages of 15 and 45, is one of these.

Unfortunately, tuberculosis does not ring a bell or put up a "Stop!" sign when it first attacks a person. The first signs of danger appear after the disease has made considerable headway. Nevertheless, there is a way to check up on tuberculosis before it has had time to cause grave injury.

The way to keep ahead of tuberculosis is to have periodic chest X-ray examinations.

X-ray pictures of the lungs will reveal the presence of tuberculosis while it is still in its early stages, before outward symptoms appear and when it can be treated effectively. For tuberculosis, as serious a disease as it is, can be checked in its early stages before the lung has been badly damaged. The less damage done at the time of discovery and the beginning of treatment, the greater are the chances of recovery.

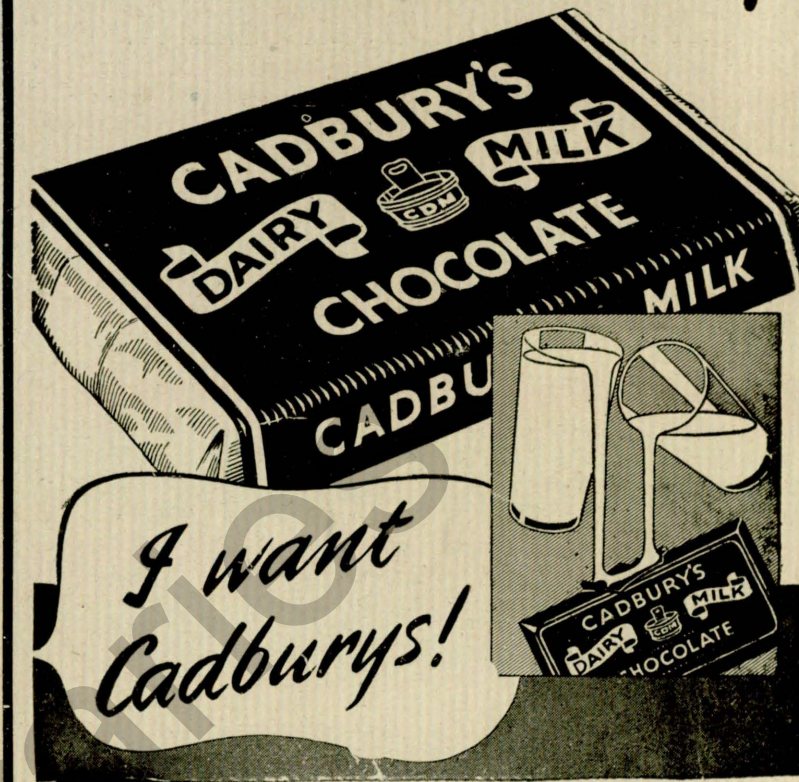
If we wait for the first symptoms of the disease — loss of weight, a constant tired feeling and a persistent cough — the disease will have progressed to the point where the "cure" will be a long process.

It does not take long to have a chest X-ray. The X-ray itself actually takes only a few seconds. A few minutes taken out of a day may save months of treatment in a hospital. Neglecting to take time to have periodic chest X-rays is as foolish as failing to heed "Stop, Look, Listen" signs at a railroad crossing.

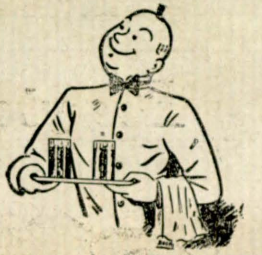
It is just plain, common sense to have periodic chest X-rays. This is the only way to find tuberculosis when it first attacks. There is another advantage, too. If our lungs are sound and healthy, the X-ray will reveal this, too. And it is mighty good to be certain we are not harbouring a disease.



IT'S HERE AGAIN!



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you want it,
sir!"



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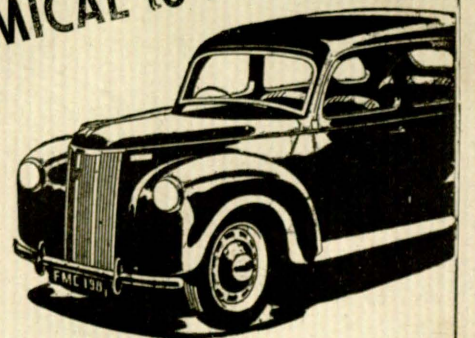
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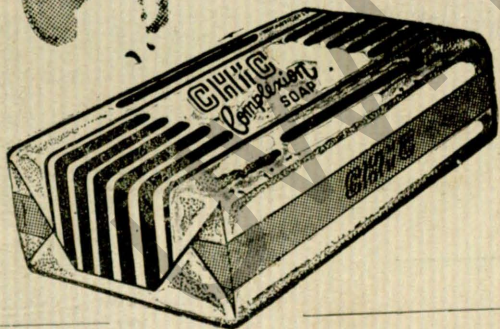
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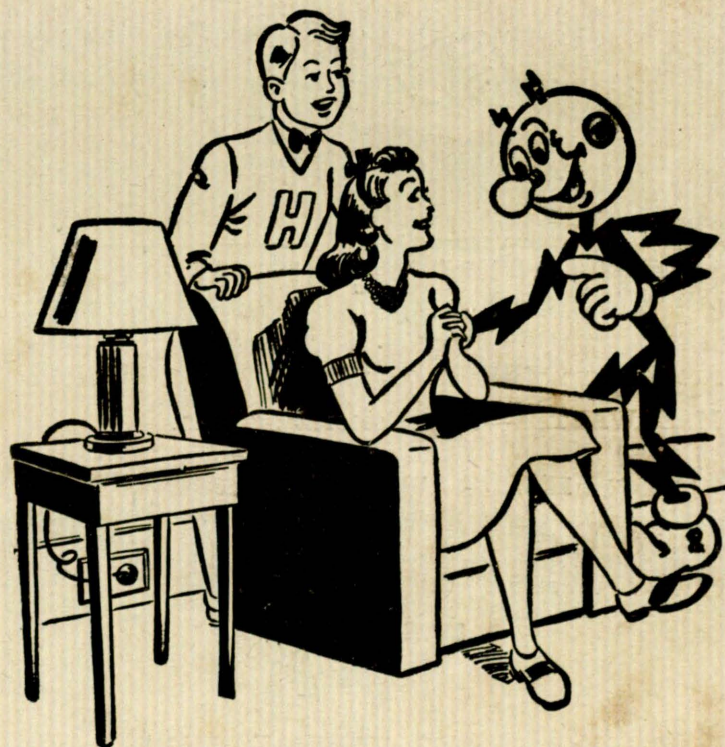
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