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Japan's Best Interpreter a Westerner

Lovers of the rare genius of Lafcadio Hearn will be glad to know of the recent issue of a little book of reminiscences of his life in Japan by his wife, Setsuko Koizumi. The tender and humorous delineation of his poignant sensitiveness, his love of beauty, his child-like joy in playing with his children, explains most convincingly why Hearn, half-Irish, half-Greek, should, after many adventures in many lands, at last have found home and happiness in Japan.

And now that Japan is of such intense and immediate interest to the United States, new interest will doubtless be given to the works of Hearn, the most sympathetic interpreter of Japan to the western world.

"Japan; An Attempt at Interpretation" is a serious study of Japanese life, character, politics and religion. But the little stories, essays and sketches scattered through the other volumes are no less illuminating.

No superficial attempt to judge the standards of the east by those of the west can give any real insight into the workings of Japanese or Chinese minds. Hearn, who lived so many years among the Japanese, who taught English literature to hundreds of Japanese school and college students, did perhaps more than anyone else to bring the hearts and minds of the two nations into some sort of accord. Sympathetic in any deep sense the two nations could hardly be. Tolerance and friendliness, however, are possible.

Hearn's lectures on English literature delivered to his Japanese boys, new published in book form, in which he attempts to open up the western mind to the eastern, have done no less than his books about Japan for westerners to read. And because of their detached point of view, they have a freshness and keenness possessed by no other body of English literary criticism.

A League of Nations Rationing the World.

The League of Nations to Pacify the World may still be in the doubtful stage, but the idea back of it is already in practical operation. There is now in existence a League of Nations to Feed the World. Herbert Hoover is running it, with a mandate from all the allied powers and with guarantees of their full support and co-operation. It is a vast undertaking, immensely more comprehensive in scope than the big labors of Mr. Hoover in feeding Belgium and subsequently apportioning the food resources of the United States. The whole world is to be rationed. The available foodstuffs of all nations are to be regarded as one great store, to be divided among the various population as their needs appear.

The work is handled under the authority of the allied powers, and made possible by their funds. Relief may naturally be given first to allied peoples who have suffered so severely from a war in which they were the innocent and aggrieved parties. But there will be no racial discrimination. As soon as the system is in good working order, food will be sent in sufficient quantity to contrast Europe and America. Relief is needed. This is many ways the most ambitious international enterprise ever undertaken. The spirit and method back of it are possibly the most important method necessary for the proposed

world league. Mr. Hoover's work is justly referred to as the "first test" of such a league. If the nations can cooperate in a vital economic matter, surely they can cooperate no less successfully in the more vital matter of fighting.

Facts for Germany "Made in Germany"

Germany seldom believes what outside people tell them. Maybe they will heed a listening ear to the hard facts jabbed at them by Maximilian Harden, the famous and honest editor of Die Zukunft. In a recent issue he advises his readers to recognize exactly what Germany has done to the allies during this war, and then to do their best, honestly and sincerely, to conciliate their outraged enemies.

The German war, he explains, included "fifty-one months of brutal rule in Belgium during which every law of humanity was broken, the devastation of northern France, air raids contrary to all law, the custom of sinking passenger and hospital ships, secret agreements with the Irish and the Flemish, the smuggling of explosives, disease bacilli and incendiary instruments into neutral countries and everywhere bribery, fraud and theft."

All this, he says, is but a part of the account the allies have to present to Germany. The Germans must acknowledge its justice, in all particulars where it is just, instead of crying out defiantly against it. They must also do their best to convince the world of the honesty of their revolutionary movement, which so many foreigners regard as a fraud, and to persuade the allies that Germany really pines her hopes on the abandonment of militaristic ambitions and the creation of a world of peace.

This, indeed, is the way of salvation for the German people, and the only way.

Rescuing Fish in Iowa Brings Big Returns

The headline "Millions of Fish Are Saved in Iowa" arrests the attention. That state is not ordinarily famed for its fish industry.

Nevertheless, it is reported that more than 17,000,000 fish have been saved through the United States Fish rescue stations, in Iowa alone, since the month of August.

During the highwater seasons of the Mississippi great numbers of fish go into quiet waters out of the main channel to spawn. As the floods abate and the dry season advances, these fish are left in landlocked pools and ponds. They have no means of egress to running water. They become more and more crowded as the pools grow smaller, and those that survived the other difficulties would freeze to death in the winter if they were not rescued.

The rescue crews scine the fish and transfer them to running streams. Some of them have been used to restock other rivers and lakes. The cost of the work is estimated at about 34 cents per thousand fish. It is a small sum in view of the great value of the work done and the need for keeping our fresh water streams and lakes stocked with fish.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

Rainy days also are gasolineless days for many pleasure car drivers.

Life for the Yanks abroad is just one river after another.

To be tied to one's Liberty bonds is an excellent form of bondage.

About every sort of artisan has struck, so far, except the farmer.

Furniture men announce prices going up. But why single out furniture?

Speaking of nonessential occupations, what about the dear, dimpled manufacturer?

Thanks to the war, everybody in the world knows what the American flag looks like.

Men's suits are to be so Hooverized as to have just a little bit more than standing room.

The bigger your income on which to pay tax, the more you can help the country in the war.

Under present circumstances, joy-riding is becoming the pursuit of pleasure under difficulties.

If the Kaiser had not been so liberal with his iron crosses, the statues would not have been melted yet.

Nor does it do on a gasoline Sunday to be guided by the other fellow's conscience. He may not have any.

Conservation and thrift ought to help in eliminating the habit of buying silly and useless gifts for Christmas.

Don't forget to get your Liberty bonds and stamps with the right stamps.

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N. K. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

QUALITY MERCHANDISE AT A LOWER PRICE THAN YOU WILL FIND ELSEWHERE

Startling Reductions on all women's suits, coats and dresses. All garments in our regular stock which are the season's newest styles, plain tailored and novelty--none reseeded, values from \$17.50 to \$80.00

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Good quality Outing Flannel. Regular 23 cent value. Sale price 15c per yard. Extra low prices on all wool, woolnap and cotton blankets. 36-inch Percalé, light and dark colors. Good quality, 27c per yard. Women's Wool Underwear, separate garments. Special value 90c and \$1.25. Wool Dress Goods, extra quality, 42 to 54 inches wide. Sale price, per yard 93c. **WORTH WHILE REDUCTIONS ON ALL MEN'S WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SHOES.** 350 pairs of Women's Shoes, lace and button, patent, vici and calf. All sizes, values to \$6.00. Your choice \$2.49

ADMIRING THEIR CAPTURED SOUVENIRS



Two Canadian soldiers examining and admiring the souvenirs they took from the Huns while the fighting was still going on in France.

Unskilled Labor.
A man never realizes what the term "unskilled labor" can mean until he boldly ventures to repair the water faucets and take down the screen doors.—Washington Star.

Times of Life's Deep Emotions.
At certain periods of life we live years of emotion in a few weeks and look back on those times as on great gaps between the old life and the new.—Thackeray.

VIEW OF A CYNIC.

No girl wants a secret marriage—still it is better than none.

When fame does not come to the average man it roosts on his tombstone.

It is difficult for a man to convince a woman that she is in the wrong when she knows she is.

Occasionally a girl marries a man just to keep him from hanging around the house every evening.

Married life is a game of questions and answers. It's the wise man who asks few questions, and a wiser one who gives brief answers.

The people who don't work believe labor to be the salvation of the rest of us.

Matrimony is that part of life indented on love's map as the horrid zone.

Most of the great inventions of the world are due to men. They haven't any hairpins to do things with.

Wouldn't we be great if we were as great as we think we are?

If you want an amusing companion find a woman with a past. Her reminiscences are always interesting.

Pride makes some people ridiculous and prevents others from becoming so.

The only way that a true gentleman will ever attempt to look at the faults of a pretty woman is to shut his eyes.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. with a settled cold upon the chest and it has always brought about a cure.

Before using this preparation for a cough or cold you may wish to know what it has done for others. Mrs. O. Cook, Macon, Ill., writes, "I have found it gives the quickest relief of any cough remedy I have ever used."

James A. Knott, Chillicothe, Mo., says "Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cannot be beat for coughs and colds." H. J. Moore, Oval, Pa., says "I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy on several occasions when I was suffering

with a settled cold upon the chest and it has always brought about a cure.

Adv. Tooth brushes, combs, hair brushes, just the kind you need. See them at **Silverthorn's FAMILY DRUG STORE LA GRANDE, OREGON.** d 1-13-19

The Observer furnishes and prints Rutter Wrappers.

Don't Let it Drop!

Many people start a bank account and let it go at that. They make no effort to keep it on the increase.

Start your account with this bank and see to it that it increases every month—don't let it drop! Your success in your undertakings will be measured by your effort to increase your Bank Account.

If you bank money while you earn it, you will have money when you can't earn it.

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Model 4-90 Chevrolet

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\$845.00 COMPLETE

Something about Depreciation

Depreciation is the nightmare of the big car owner. Large cars are hard to sell and your money loss is large. Most large cars depreciate forty per cent in one season. This means \$800.00 on a \$2000.00 car. Think this over. That loss would pay for a Chevrolet, to say nothing of the difference in running expense.

W. H. BOHNENKAMP CO.

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