

## OUR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN NEW LIGHT ON THE "JAPANESE SOUL"

THE RECENT alarmist utterances of some of our prominent men about Japanese-American relations have been greeted by the Japanese press either with ridicule or with sarcasm. In this country many papers took them as efforts to rouse sentiment for the Naval Appropriation Bill. Nevertheless, it can not be denied that they have made an impression upon some of the leading minds of Japan, for in the May issue of the *Taiyo*, perhaps the most influential monthly in Tokyo, we notice an article from the pen of Mr. Nakahashi, president of one of the greatest steamship companies in Japan, expressing decidedly pessimistic views about our future relations with the Mikado's empire. Mr. Nakahashi is noted not only for his remarkable business ability but for his scholarly taste, being the author of numerous articles and several notable books. To him the crux of the American-Japanese question still lies in the immigration problem, which has for the present almost ceased to claim the attention of the public east of the Rockies. He disagrees with some of his compatriots who think the Japanese immigrant will be assimilated here, and frankly admits that the Japanese, like the Chinaman, retains his national traits, patriotism, and traditions wherever he may go. These, as well as his physical appearance, make him, Mr. Nakahashi asserts, unsuited to commingle and assimilate with the white race, and it is natural that America should decline to receive him. Was not Japan herself, he asks, forced by popular objection to send back 300 Chinese coolies who had been engaged for the construction work of a railroad? Instead of regarding the unassimilable quality of the Japanese as one of his shortcomings, the writer finds in it the strength of the nation, and he makes the following portentous remarks:

"I am of the opinion that to maintain the position of a first-class Power a nation must possess at least 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 population, for in case of emergency we may borrow money abroad, but not soldiers. It is therefore desirable that our population should be kept concentrated within the confines of our own country and its immediate vicinities. Thickly populated as they are, our islands are yet capable of harboring 20,000,000 more people, while almost as many can be sent to Korea and Manchuria. In view of this fact it is for the good of Japan, as much as it is to the interest of America, that we should stop the emigration of our people to the United States.

"And yet it must be remembered that our population increases at the rate of 500,000 every year, and the time will come before many years when we will be forced to find some new outlet for the surplus population. Some of the South American Republics seem willing to receive our immigrants, but even South America will not favor the unrestricted immigration of people who are unable to assimilate themselves with the native races and institutions. Should diplomatic complications arise between a South American state and Japan on account of popular demonstration against our immigrants such as has occurred in California, it is quite possible that the United States, following the principle of the Monroe Doctrine, will interfere with our policy in behalf of the South American country. An American-Japanese conflict seems an inevitable corollary of a policy aiming at the encouragement of the emigration of our population to South America."

Mr. Nakahashi looks upon the completion of the Panama Canal as the pivotal point in American diplomacy in the Far East. He says:

"The great canal will be available for navigation within seven years, and we must be prepared to see America assume a more vigorous attitude toward us after 1917 or thereabouts. Indeed, the new diplomacy of America will really begin with the opening of this waterway, and the Far Eastern question, as well as the immigration question, will assume a more serious aspect, if the new American policy manifests itself in proposals and interference in which Japan can not acquiesce without imperiling her own vital interests."—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

THE MIND of the Oriental is so proverbially difficult for the rest of us to fathom that we may welcome as a valuable contribution to our knowledge a fresh and striking article on "The Japanese Soul," which appears in the *Revue Générale* (Paris) from the pen of Jules Leclercq, the well-known French traveler and journalist. Perhaps we should keep in mind while reading it the close friendship between the French and the Russians, a friendship cemented by the investment of millions of francs in Russian bonds, to explain some of the stronger passages. The writer, who professes to have a special insight into the workings of the Japanese disposition, doubts "the sincerity of the smiles and bows which they lavish on foreigners." "Simple indeed must be those who are deceived by them." He boldly remarks:

"Under this feigned politeness, which is merely a mechanical and hollow piece of flattery, they conceal a profound aversion for foreigners. This feeling is ready at any moment to burst out into violence as brutally as the cannon shot with which the Japanese fell upon the Russians without previous declaration of war. This was, of course, a proceeding quite unworthy of a nation which boasts of being chivalric. The Japanese have studied our civilization merely for the sake of contending with us. Their cry is 'Death to the barbarians!'"

This writer says that "British arrogance" is humility "compared with the conceit of the Japanese." "They threaten to inflict upon America the same treatment they dealt to China." Mr. Leclercq does not spare the Japanese in the matter of commercial honesty. "They are unscrupulous in their business methods," he remarks casually. The following terms seem pretty strong when we remember that they are printed in a Paris journal of the first literary and political importance:

"I met at Kobé an English merchant who held the Chinese in high esteem, but had such a contempt for the Japs that he declared that their moral level was lower than that of the cannibals of Central Africa. Is it not surprising that, while the Chinese are perfectly honest in trade, the Japanese are the most openly dishonest of all civilized peoples? . . . With prodigious rapidity they have acquired a military education as a people, but it will take them two or three generations to acquire a commercial education."

The intense and warlike patriotism of these people is freely conceded by this French writer and journalist, and he tells how sedulously and thoroughly it is inculcated on the young. The Ronins were the forty-seven heroes who delivered Japan in the mythical ages. Their tombs and armor are pointed out as an example to the school-children of Japan.

Equally important as incentives to courage and patriotism are the military museums in Japan, of which we read:

"I have learned more about the Japanese soul from visiting the museums than from any other experience. They are not so much monuments of national glory as schools of courage, where the memorials of bravery and devotion are stored up and exhibited."

The warlike spirit of Japanese patriotism, selfish and narrow as it is, is the sole redeeming quality in the nation's character, says Mr. Leclercq, and he concludes:

"Europeans generally leave Japan without regret, and with the impression that it is over-artificial and effete. The landscape offers to the eye neither variety nor surprise. The trees are too little, the mountains are too little; the people live in Lilliputian houses. They do not understand grandeur in architecture, and their temples are wanting in fine and noble lines. Their style is monotonous. We soon grow tired of what is so small and pretty, and when we bid good-by to Japan we find ourselves repeating the words of the old diplomat:

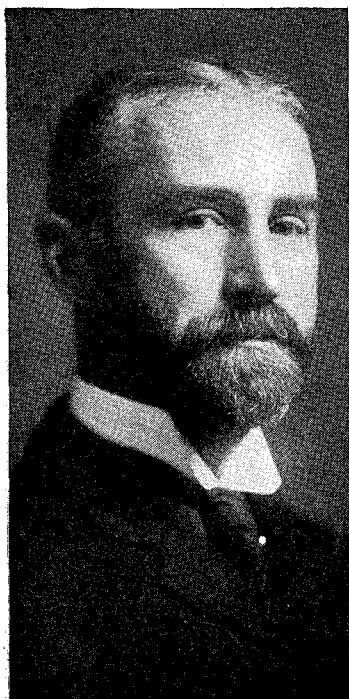
"Flowers without scent;  
Fruit without flavor;  
Women without modesty."

—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*



## QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF OUR DOCTORS

**T**HAT we are suffering from an overproduction of ill-trained physicians due to a multiplicity of poor medical schools, is the principal thesis of a recent Carnegie Foundation report that has aroused no little attention in medical circles. This report, a volume of 346 pages, forms the first



HE FINDS AN OVERPRODUCTION OF DOCTORS.

Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, President of the Carnegie Foundation, thinks the granting of too many M.D.'s by medical schools, run "for revenue only," is demoralizing the profession.

are the conclusions that have caused excitement. To quote Dr. Pritchett:

"It is evident that in a society constituted as are our modern States, the interests of the social order will be best served when the number of men entering a given profession reaches and does not exceed a certain ratio. For example, in law and medicine one sees best in a small village the situation created by the overproduction of inadequately trained men. In a town of 2,000 people one will find in most of our States from five to eight physicians where two well-trained men could do the work efficiently and make a competent livelihood. When, however, six or eight ill-trained physicians undertake to gain a living in a town which can support only two, the whole plane of professional conduct is lowered in the struggle which ensues, each man becomes intent upon his own practise, public health and sanitation are neglected, and the ideals and standards of the profession tend to demoralization.

"A similar state of affairs comes from the presence of too large a number of ill-trained lawyers in a community. . . . It seems clear that as nations advance in civilization they will be driven to throw around the admission to these great professions such safeguards as will limit the number of those who enter them to some reasonable estimate of the number who are actually needed. It goes without saying that no system of standards of admission to a profession can exclude all the unfit or furnish a perfect body of practitioners, but a reasonable enforcement of such standards will at least relieve the body politic of a large part of the difficulty which comes from overproduction, and will safeguard the right of society to the service of trained men in the great callings which touch so closely our physical and political life. . . .

of a series on professional schools to be issued by the Foundation and is from the pen of Abraham Flexner, with an introduction by President Henry S. Pritchett. President Pritchett begins by reminding his readers that trustees called upon to administer a fund for the benefit of institutions of higher education must necessarily begin by an investigation, to find what institutions deserve this name. The present research has revealed, he says, an enormous overproduction of uneducated and ill-trained doctors, due in the main to the existence of schools "for revenue only," and to the failure of large universities to realize their own responsibilities in the matter, especially in the provision of proper hospitals under complete control of the teaching authorities. We need, he says, fewer and better medical schools. These

"No one can become familiar with this situation without acquiring a hearty sympathy for the American youth who, too often the prey of commercial advertising methods, is steered into the practise of medicine with almost no opportunity to learn the difference between an efficient medical school and a hopelessly inadequate one. A clerk who is receiving \$50 a month in the country store gets an alluring brochure which paints the life of the physician as an easy road to wealth. He has no realization of the difference between medicine as a profession and medicine as a business, nor as a rule has he any adviser at hand to show him that the first requisite for the modern practitioner of medicine is a good general education. Such a boy falls an easy victim to the commercial medical school, whether operating under the name of a university or college, or alone."

These things have been said before without causing much excitement, but when they are said in the name of a body of men having several million dollars to distribute, they carry much farther and penetrate deeper when they hit. The bulk of the report by Mr. Flexner is a statistical analysis of the facts summed up by Dr. Pritchett and of their causes. Naturally there are those who are unwilling to give these gentlemen the last word. It is even reported that one medical college has brought suit for damages against members of the committee under whose auspices this investigation was made. A correspondent from Utica, N. Y., writes to *The Evening Post* (New York, June 13), protesting against what he calls the Rooseveltian or "big-stick" methods of the committee. He says:

"What Mr. Flexner ignores, what all men ignore who would permit only men of culture, refinement, and college training to practise medicine, is that the frontier and the backwoods need physicians as well as the aristocratic sections of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the other cities.

"And the United States is still largely frontier and backwoods. . . . The standards recommended by the Carnegie Foundation report would rule out from the medical profession two classes of men. One class would be the men of the Gross, Agnew, and Leidy type, men endowed by nature for leadership in their profession. The other class would be the large number of humble, hard-working doctors who ride almost impassable country roads on stormy nights, who encounter the snow-drifts in the mountain passes, and ford the swollen streams in the effort to relieve human suffering. We should have, thus, in certain favored places a limited number of perfectly respectable doctors, a little overcritical, perhaps, not given much to the enthusiasm that leads to self-sacrifice, careful about their fees, which would increase with the absence of competition. But the flooded stream, the black, unlighted night of the prairie, the narrow mountain road, the lonely farm, would not be within reach of their automobiles. Because this is so, because the sober sense of masses of people in action covers a wider range of fact than can be gathered in the closet, the recommendations of the report are futile."

The daily press, however, generally commends the report. The *New York Times* (June 12), in a two-column editorial,



HE WOULD WEED OUT THE INFERIOR MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

Dr. Abraham Flexner, who tells us about the equipment of every medical school in the country in his report, and recommends that the poorer ones be abolished in the interests of health.