

falls from their backs, vermin make their lives a hell, they do not receive boiled drinking water until guards or officials are bribed, and they are given only the most filthy and inadequate food. The death rate in prison is not known, because the officials refuse neutrally-constituted bodies the right to make investigations.

Numerous letters smuggled from prisons have revealed the feudal, barbarous torture of political prisons. The prisoners die like flies, and in most cases the chains are removed from them only after their bodies are cold and stiff in death. Often they are left to die in the prison cell in full view of other

prisoners, at other times they are merely removed to the corridor until they stiffen in death. When epidemics, such as typhus, typhoid, dysentery or cholera break out among them, there is no earthly possibility of the victims receiving proper treatment. Only an aroused international public opinion wrung the right to hospital treatment for Paul Ruegg.

The public should remember that imprisonment in China nearly always means death after a few months or years. Few human beings can endure the unspeakable conditions of Kuomintang prisons. Let the whole world know that Chinese political prisoners, like

those that once filled the prisons of Czarist Russia, are men and women whose "crime" is that of struggling for a new and free society. Thousands of the most intelligent and courageous men and women of China have either been tortured to death, shot, beheaded, strangled to death for their national-revolutionary activities, or are sitting in the disease-infested dungeons of the Kuomintang.

We call upon advanced men and women of all lands to raise their voices in mighty protest, demanding the release of Paul and Gertrude Ruegg as well as the release of all Chinese political prisoners suffering and dying in silence. MME. SUN YAT-SEN.

Fraternity Minus the Bunk

BRUCE MINTON

AN HOUR before the workers of San Francisco buried their dead last July, an hour before that unending, silent column of mourners followed the coffins of two pickets who had been shot in the back by police, another group marched. A few hundred tired old men paraded. They strutted in cocked hats adorned with flowing plumes; they trudged up Market Street with their silly tin swords jangling at their sides, or rode decrepit nags hired for the occasion. These old men were delegates to the Knights Templars' Convention. No one paid much attention to them—least of all the thousands upon thousands of workers who had gathered on the waterfront to bury their dead.

The Knights Templars resented the strike. It inconvenienced them, particularly when the taxis and street cars stopped running, when the restaurants and theatres closed, when no one paid the slightest attention to their jinks. Their fraternal order opposed the strike. So did officials of the Masons and the Elks and the Eagles. The membership in these organizations is composed largely of industrial or white-collar workers, but the policies that the orders pursue remain anti-labor. Support may come from dues paid into the treasuries by workers and clerks; but the policies are directed from above, designed to serve a system based on private profit, in which the interests of the majority are opposed to those of the ruling class.

Last week, another fraternal order held its convention, this time in New York. A special train from Chicago, another from Cleveland, brought delegates; more than 1,100 in all, from all parts of the country, from labor unions of all kinds, from nearly every trade and profession—printers, machinists, steel and auto workers, writers, dentists, pharmacists, blacksmiths and many others. At the opening session Madison Square Garden was jammed with delegates and spectators.

The members of the International Workers' Order didn't have gold-mounted ivory

elks' teeth dangling from watch chains, or wear cocked hats with plumes or the Turkish fez or fancy costumes. They were workers, and their order had more serious business than to turn out for a junket ending in a glorified drunk. The I. W. O. is the only genuinely working-class fraternal order in the country. Five years old, it has grown in this brief time from 6,000 members (who broke away from the reactionary, social-democratic Workmen's Circle) to 72,500 members subdivided into language groups and a Youth Section. The original Jewish nucleus that quit the Circle has in five years become but another unit in the various sections composing the I. W. O. Now there are Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Yugoslavian groups, etc., including an English and a Youth Section.

This rapid growth can be readily understood upon a brief examination of what the I. W. O. offers. In the first place, rates are far lower than in any other fraternal order. There are no high-paid officials to support, no Senators and ex-Cabinet members such as Senator James Davis of Pennsylvania, once Secretary of Labor, who found his executive position in a bourgeois fraternal order enormously lucrative. Besides, members receive more insurance, more benefits in the I. W. O. for the amount paid than they could possibly get in any other order. For example, 99 cents a month entitles a thirty-year-old man to a \$1,000 life-insurance policy, plus a \$4 weekly sick benefit, a \$20 weekly tuberculosis benefit over a period of twenty-six weeks, and a disability (accident) benefit graduated, according to the gravity of the accident, up to \$300. A small additional sum means an increase in the amount payable in case of illness, doctor's services free not only to the member but to his or her family. Specialists, X-ray treatment, even medicine, can be obtained at reduced cost. Insurance for a child under nine costs 12 cents; under sixteen, 16 cents—in which is included a copy of the monthly, anti-fascist magazine, New

Pioneer. These rates are about a third of those charged by commercial insurance companies.

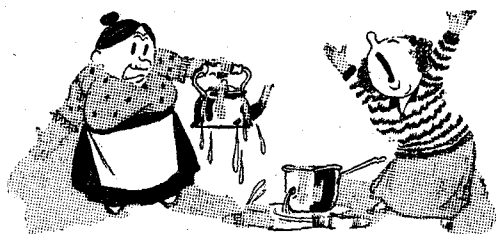
Foreign born were first to enter the I. W. O. in any numbers. These workers had the most difficult time obtaining employment; they worked under the worst conditions, drifting in and out of mining and steel towns, into the sweat shops of the crowded cities. They lacked any form of security. They could not join the bourgeois orders: they were foreigners, they were unable to pay high dues; if they did join, they remained outsiders. Yet they had a strong fraternal tradition. The I. W. O. solved their problem—they became members by the thousands.

American workers have also been joining. The Convention just held was especially concerned with enrolling Americans. To this end, the federated set-up of language groups which prevailed in the I. W. O. to the present time has been altered: henceforth, the English section will predominate, the language sections will form auxiliaries. The convention also stressed the activities of the I. W. O. above and beyond the fraternal benefits. Unemployment, industrial disease, death on the job, accident and disability are products of the present system which underpays workers, speeds up the tempo that they must maintain on the job until exhaustion and carelessness are the natural result. Benefits partially provide for the emergency needs of the workers; but it is also important to see that the causes of these needs are reduced. The usual fraternal order elaborately avoids such problems, spending its time parading on holidays, solemnly going through mumbo-jumbo rites, listening to patriotic declamations, or serving the Chambers of Commerce by passing anti-radical resolutions (aimed at the organized labor movement). The I. W. O., on the other hand, fights vigorously on a class-conscious basis for the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill (H. R. 2827), against deportations, against war and fascism.



"Hush . . . don't frighten the thief—maybe he will open the drawer."

THE PHILOSOPHER WAS RIGHT



1.

a. Everything Flows



3.

c. Again Everything Flows



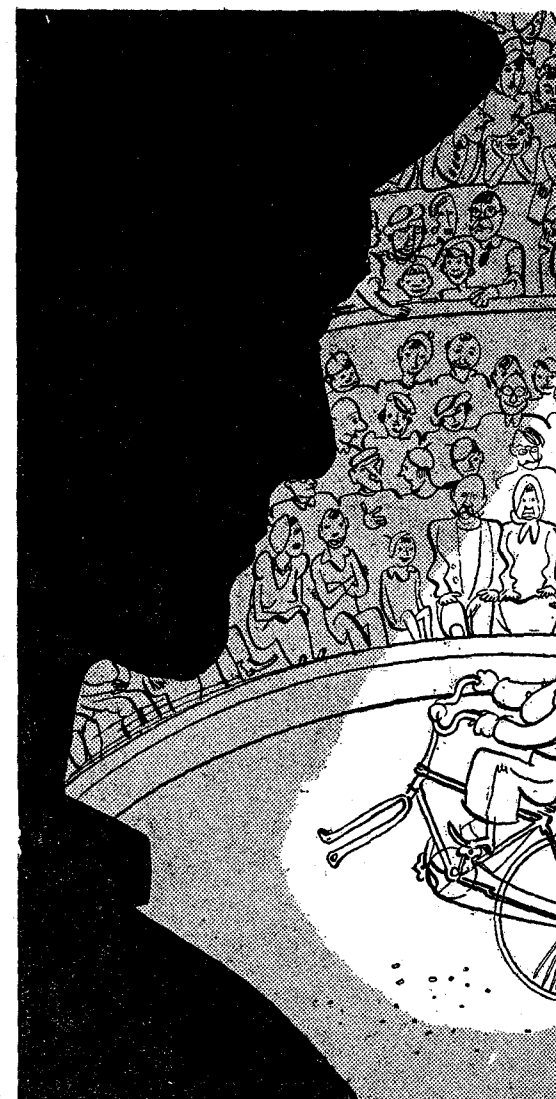
2.

b. Everything Is Being Changed



4.

d. Again Everything Is Being Changed



"And you said it's impossible to ride."