

JAPANESE WORKING PEOPLE'S HOME LIFE AND HABITS.

As one walks in Yokohama and Tokio through a multitude of narrow streets lined with tiny buildings, writes a correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle, the foreign and characteristic air lent to the scenes presented comes from the fact that in each separate little open shop some single workman, like a bee in his cell, in a way so different from our Western method, is busily plying his trade.

When I had dissembled my wonder at seeing the dressmaker holding one end of his seam with his toes; had returned the polite bow of a young cooper who was skillfully utilizing the same members in his binding of tubs with vegetable withes instead of metallic hoops, and had watched with admiration the wondrous way in which a basket-maker was helped out by his ingenious combination of ambi and pedal dexterity, I suddenly felt a new wish. I wanted to see these quiet and clever working people at home in their houses as they actually live.

Then it was explained that all the little shells of open shops lining the narrow streets and roadways were likewise the veritable habitations of the humanity about me. I soon saw that this was true, and was ever thereafter fascinated by the endless glimpses of interiors and studies of the home life of the common people.

There may be one room or two in the small domicile; commonly a second room exists behind the first. A very small separate kitchen may or may not be a part of the establishment. The culinary operations are so simple in character and the utensils so

given in the middle of forenoon, and afternoon, as at noon, an interval for resting and eating, and many babies on the backs of small brothers and sisters wait about the tea-firing places that at the regular hour, they, too, may partake of refreshment.

This interval of rest is so elastic in its application that there seems hardly an hour of the day when one group or another of 'ricksha men by the roadside, of boatmen in the canal, of coolies in the go-down compounds or of craftsmen in the shops may not be seen gathered, seated on their heels, about the little charcoal fireboxes, plying their chopsticks in small lacquered bowls and square wooden boxes of cooked rice, and drinking tea from cups like good-sized thimbles. Besides the dressmaker and tailor, the cooper and the basket-maker are other artisans pursuing their avocations in quite a queer way. The carpenter backs at his boards with a sort of rough adze or stands on them and saws them with what looks like a notched butcher's knife set in a long handle, or plaques them carefully toward him. The man in the rice mill ignores belts and wheels and machinery generally, and jumps all day on the end of a plank, a cog or weight in the other end of which pounds away at the grains. The lantern-maker and the umbrella-maker sit patiently tying and pasting their frail wares, the stock in trade slowly piling up, day by day, behind them. Lonely men, each in his little booth, make the thick straw mats or sections of flooring for the native houses. Boys work deftly, tossing

them with "You mustn't do that," "You can't have this," "You mayn't go there." Among the common people, at least, there is no sequestering of women; they, too, are everywhere, cheek by jowl, helping and doing, apparently, as freely as the men. If it is only a wooden tub which they have to scrub out, girls with bare feet and arms, elaborately dressed hair and clean and pretty blue and white kimonos, are apt to bring it out on the sidewalk and scrub away gregariously for the next half hour or more.

Unloading great stones from the sampans in the canals, women work as cheerfully, lustily and effectively as the men. They share, seemingly on equal terms, in the small shop keeping, and help in all the labors of the various avocations. I don't see how one of these men can have any secrets from his wife or escape her society on the plea that business will detain him at the store. If business did, he would probably find her there before him, as much at home as in the kitchen or nursery, which apartments, in truth, seem to be pretty well done away with; and if she wasn't there in person, at least all the other women on the block would be in the near vicinity, able to supervise his movements.

Living is reduced almost to its simplest elements here, where a single garment will do for a covering, and that, if necessary, for years; where a few cents' worth of rice, pickled vegetables and dried fish make an appetizing and satisfying meal, and where a single bare room for dining, for guests and for sleeping is practically all that is required by even ambitious householders.

In Japan the poorest people are not without their comforts and conveniences. Cooked foods, so cheaply prepared in public kitchens, have been mentioned. Milkmen and other purveyors are in almost every block, with their goods in smallest packages if desired, for the fractional copper currency. The housekeeping is the easiest, and at the same time the daintiest, in all the world. No dust and dirt ever are brought in to tarnish the fair white floors. The low-ceilinged, empty rooms and narrow verandas are readily brushed and washed each day. The mats on which the poor man sleeps are as soft as those of the rich.

Bathhouses in the neighborhood, too, are frequent, where the tired mother and all her fretful progeny, wearied by the heat and the hours of work, at the close of the day enjoy their regular evening hot and cold water plunge and splash.

The improvidence of these people probably is in no danger of being ex-

plained that but few feet of space at best are needed to contain them. The partitions being in the form of sliding panels, all may be thrown into the shop during the day or otherwise, as elected. So in this country the worker is still at home to a great extent while he plies his trade, and factory, stock of goods and shop, as well as dwelling place, are all under one roof and appertain to one man.

Down at the hatbox, or dock, in Yokohama gangs of Japanese coolies load and unload the steamers in a leisurely, semi-desultory, casual and happy manner all their own. Not a bag or bale could they lift without their accompanying song of:

Yot-toe cor-ah sai-ya,
Yot-toe cor-ah sai-ya.
For just when the heavy emphasis comes two men sling the weight on to the shoulders of a third, who trots off with it, and the next two wait for the chorus to come around again to the right syllable before they proceed as before. It is jolly, musical and quaint in the extreme. If the back of the overseer is turned for a moment all the industrious laborers will sink on their heels and light their pipes, which look like a penholder with an infinitesimal thimble bowl at the end.

At the other side of town are the great tea-firing go-downs, redolent, blocks away, of the subtle herb. Inside, in rows, are the big firing cauldrons, with charcoal fires beneath, and filling the place all up and down are the lines of women with towels wrapped about their heads, swaying, bending, sometimes rhythmically, sometimes spasmodically, stirring vigorously with hands and arms among the hot tea

shuttles back and forth that weave or tie the bamboo window blinds. I watched an actual boy with warts on his hands, at work alone in an open doorway, on a great square of pale blue silk on which he was embroidering without model or copy the most exquisitely shaded pink roses. Little girls sitting on the floor hemstitched silk handkerchiefs and made the fragilely beautiful drawn and embroidered grass-linen work. A couple of blue men, with hawk noses and severe countenances, like American red men gone a wrong color, bobbing about among their indigo vats, will be the whole visible works of a big dyeing establishment. In front of six shops, young men with simple appliances, working in the dust of the roadway, jostled by 'ricksha men and half-throwing youngsters, reel off silk into skeins or quickly twist it, in a sort of wayside ropewalk, into variegated silken cords.

Perhaps the most interesting of all are the women in small, open rooms who sit all day at primitive frames throwing by hand the shuttles in and out that weave the web of silk or cotton. It is a pretty and poetical way of achieving the fabric we are to wear. I can but contrast the lives of these quiet workers in their open doorways, under the blue of heaven, their eyes sometimes wandering away with pleasure to the shifting street panorama before them, with those of the thrice wretched seamstresses, factory hands and sweat-shop women in our own cities. It is small misfortune to be bare-limbed, perchance; to wear cheap cotton, to eat only rice, in a land where the fashion for all, even the well-to-do, is not widely different. I have seen the weary and old countenances of little children and the hard ones of young girls, thronging out of our mills and manufactories, but these better faces of the Japanese women at their hand looms are less hopeless. And I would that this callous, hurried scrambling world had time to weave its textiles all in the old way of those early ages when so much sorrow was not.

There seems nothing grim, over-severe or crushing about Japanese labor. It is essentially sociable and cheerful. Every third shop is a place of eatables, where hot sweet potatoes, rice coated with delicate seaweed, hot fish or shrimp fritters dipped in soy, rolls of fish wrapped around bean and sugar paste, buckwheat macaroni with soy, tasty morsels broiled on skewers, sugared beans and roasted nuts, parched or popped rice kernels, rice wafers and cakes browned over the fire (and if still pale, painted to the right tints with brown dye), rice paste or jelly, sweetmillet paste candy, popped rice candy, cups of shaved ice and numerous other dainties and sweetmeats, are ever at hand for the

delectation of the workers. But this is not enough, and men with vans and boxes of cooked food perambulate the streets still more conveniently to refresh the toiling masses. The meager coppers so scantily earned jingle all day right merrily into the pockets or pouches of the caterers.

Babies are everywhere swarming about, afoot and aback, with their share of the good things going. Nobody seems ever to startle and depre-



RICKSHA PULLER.

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aggerated in the telling. It is doubtless quite true that the impoverished 'ricksha puller or factory operator pawns his bed daily to buy his breakfast, and after earning enough to redeem the futons before night, recklessly expends in riotous living in the ten-ten eating houses the whole balance of his capital. He looks as if he does all that he is accused of in the way of ever patching his blue kimono instead of buying a new one, in living in one-year-old houses, and of handing down to his descendants only the same pots and kettles, without a single addition thereto, which he in his day inherited from his parents. But that he is to any extent unhappy, miserable and wretched over it I very much doubt. I have watched him singing (and lingering) at his work, and going home at night in droves, still cheerfully sociable, solaced with his tiny pipe and fairly hilarious over the least morsel and drop of rice and cheap sake. I have gone with him to his matsuri, or festivals, and I know how often they recur and how light-hearted they find him. I have stood with him to laugh at the fun-makers and dancers at the frequent street celebrations and local fetes, and I don't believe there is much rancor and bitterness to his poverty. Besides, his wages are going up. Guilds he has had always, and he is learning about strikes. Dock laborers get eighty cents a day now, where formerly they received nearer to eight. Considering their labor capacity and the cheapness of their living, the former is not a bad wage. 'Ricksha charges, those for laundry work, and of various craftsmen (as all the dyers in Osaka, who have just procured themselves a twenty-five-per-cent. raise), the wages of house servants and the salaries of policemen and other officials, all are slowly and steadily increasing, and the explanation is that the wants of life are on the increase, meat is beginning to be eaten, wool is coming to be liked for clothing, some simple luxuries are now understood and desired, and so the time is to come when the workman of Japan is to have rather more of the conveniences and necessities of life to buy, and considerably more money with which to purchase them. At least that is considered the trend of affairs at present.

German Carp is Unpopular. If a fish dealer depended upon the sale of German carp for a livelihood he would starve in double-quick time. That particular member of the fish family is several hundred thousands of miles away from the pinnacle of popularity, and there is nothing these days to indicate that it is going to decrease the distance. German carp are quoted, wholesale price, at a penny a pound. "How in the world do you manage to make anything out of them?" asked the inquisitive buyer of the South Water street fish dealer the other day. "I don't see where it pays to handle them."

"It really doesn't pay to handle them, nor does the fisherman who catches them make a fortune out of his business," said the fish dealer. "Just imagine what the fisherman makes when we are supposed to sell at a profit at a penny a pound. He wouldn't do right well even if he had a good business. German carp are far from being entitled to recognition as fine fish. They are coarse in flesh, and it is an impossible matter to refine them. I handle them because there are some people who buy them from me. It is not that I sell them for a reasonable profit, but merely as an accommodation."—Chicago Record.

"Do you think you can accustom yourself to Klondike cooking?" "Why not? My wife took the first prize at Vassar for her paper-weight biscuits."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

CAR BROKE LOOSE.

One Man Killed, and Two Seriously Injured On a Steep Grade.

Three Italians, employed by the Glen Union Lumber Company at Lock Haven, boarded a truck to go down the heavy grade of the narrow gauge road to the shanty, five miles distant, one day, last week. The men lost control of the car, and after running two miles at great speed it plunged into a car loaded with prop timber. Barney Sallo had both legs crushed and a scalp wound. He died a few hours later. George Julian had his skull fractured, both legs broken and was injured internally; cannot recover. Nick Flago received a contusion of the hip and was internally injured; may recover.

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been granted: Hiram Mosher, Grand Valley; William R. Loughry, Indiana; Charles Clearkins, Johnsonburg; Benjamin James, Allegheny; Thomas N. Clark, West Middlesex; Samuel S. Shuts, Oil City; Thomas J. Brown, Altoona; Jane Beadling, Webster; Griffith Herrod, Hope; Oliver Shane, Hoboken; William Loyd, New Castle; Samuel Claycomb, Altoona; George Beyer, Etna; Lewis E. Darrow, Cory; Charles C. Hackett, Derry station; William W. Foster, Parkers Landing; Albert G. Harper, Kaneville; Susan C. Larimer, Pittsburgh; John C. Wisegarver, Latrobe; Mary Whitman, Johnstown; John Dillon, Pittsburgh; Mary J. Coons, Derry station; Mary L. Fletcher, Allegheny; Susan Mills, New Castle; Margaret E. Blake, Martinsburg; Barbara Arentus, Johnstown; Rosetta E. Taylor, Lincolnville; William H. Harvey, Tarentum; William A. Jackson, Philadelphia; Andrew C. Ketcher, Allegheny; Robert H. Ayres, Altoona; John D. Hoer, Pittsburgh; Charles M. Roberts (dead), Homestead; John H. Hill, Claysville; Sidney M. Wiehl, Zelenople; William Henry Freeman, Grantville; Della M. Johnson, Altoona; Mary Cummings, Erie; minors of William S. M. Barron, New Lexington; Adaline B. Darling, East Springfield; Mary Hoffer, Madison; Katurah Orr, Putneyville; William Hayes Crier, Columbia, Lancaster co.; James M. Hooper, Canonsville, Indiana county; David Jacobs, Carnegie; Samuel L. Pretz, Steelton, Dauphin county; Abraham Irvin, Frugality, Cambria county; Charles E. Rhinehart, Mechanicville, Cumberland county; Jeremiah Cook, Harrisburg; George Fisher, Altoona; Aaron Winward, Latrobe; Bernard Graf (dead), Leetsdale, Allegheny county.

Two residents of Greenville had a narrow escape from bleeding to death a few days ago. Mrs. Jas. Sholenburger, of Osceola, was tightening the top of a glass fruit jar, when it broke, cutting her wrist in a terrible manner. The doctor, George Hoffmann, near the rolling mill, fell on a butter knife, slashing her arm in a terrible manner. Physicians at Canonsburg removed a needle from the wrist of a young woman named Blair with the aid of X-rays.

While Jos. Gulino, Bernard Stallo, and Nicholas Flago were descending a heavy grade on the Glenunion lumber road, they lost control of the car at Lock Haven, and it ran away with them, colliding with a lumber train. All were hurt. Gulino had both legs broken and was badly hurt about the head. One of the other men had his hip broken, and the other his ribs broken.

Louisa Kliser, who had her left leg cut off by a train on the Erie railroad last Saturday night at Meadville, was married Thursday to Charles E. Khatz, the young man who was with her at the time of the accident. They were about to board the train for the purpose of going to Jamestown, N. Y., to have the nuptial knot tied, when the accident occurred.

A public meeting of citizens was held at Greensburg the other day and a board of trade organized by the section of the Erie road as president. The object is to group all opportunities for securing the location of manufactories. Nearly 50 members were secured. The membership fee was fixed at \$5.

Jacob Buntley, a laborer in the Carbonsburg works at Pittsburgh, had his left leg amputated at the St. Francis hospital. The man was cleaning a set of cogwheels the other day, when they were started. The wheels crushed the leg to a pulp as far as the knee before the machinery could be stopped.

At a colored camp-meeting at Worley's grove, near Waynesburg, the other day, Willie Parks, aged 8 years, was fatally shot, and Officer Charles Cagle painfully wounded. The officer was pursuing William Shanes for disorderly conduct and Shanes fired two shots before he was arrested.

Mrs. Wm. Vankirk, of West Washington, died suddenly a few days ago of heart failure. She was sitting in the window of her home sewing, when she suddenly fell to the floor, and died in a few minutes. She was 27 years of age and leaves four young children.

James Griffin, a flagman, was instantly killed the other day at Juniataville. It is supposed he tripped on a switch frog when a train was backing into a siding. He was ground to pieces. The remains were brought here. Griffin was 30 years old and single.

Alfred E. Duell and wife have sued M. B. Kerr & Sons, druggists, of Mars, for \$5,000 damages, alleging that the defendants negligently gave the wrong medicine in a prescription filled by them for Mrs. Duell, causing her suffering and injury.

The executors of Hamilton Smith, of Ligonier, who, with his daughter, was killed at Derry by his horse jumping over the railroad bridge, have entered suit for \$10,000 damages against the Pennsylvania Railroad company.

The famous Cornely arson case came to a close last week, when the jury returned a verdict of guilty as indicted for attempting to burn the armory, but not guilty of the electric light works fire.

The barn of Martin Bell, at Vira, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground the other day. The stock and farm implements were saved, but the season's crop was destroyed. Loss, \$2,500; insurance, \$1,000.

George L. Wyly died last week in Waynesburg, at the age of 74 years. He was one of the older members of the Greene county bar and President of the Farmers and Drovers National Bank of Waynesburg. He was unmarried.

James P. Sullivan, a contractor working for the Pennsylvania railroad, was killed at Sonnon, near Johnstown, Tuesday, by an express train. His home was at Spangler, where he leaves a wife.

Friends of James Bruce, of Midway, who was found dead beside the railroad track a week ago, believe that he was murdered, and will institute a thorough inquiry.

AMONG THE INDUSTRIES.

Glass Trust Notifies Jobbers of a 5 Per Cent. Advance.

Window glass has gone up 7 per cent. in price to the public. The jobbers' association met at Chicago last week and were officially notified by the manufacturers' combine, that the price to them was raised 5 per cent. The jobbers promptly raised their price, claiming the 5 per cent. advance did not restore to them the proper margin of profit. The new rates of discount under the increase are 60 and 20 per cent. The increase affects all grades of window glass. There will be another meeting in a week or two, following the organization of the trust outlined at the manufacturers' meeting, for the purpose of organizing the jobbers to the new conditions.

LABOR NOTES.

Business in Greenville, Pa., is improving. The P. L. Kimberly rolling mill is working only eight puddling furnaces and the finishing departments, for the reason that more men are wanted. The improvements being made by the steam heat company gives employment to a large number of men, and idle men are scarce.

The Standard Scale and Supply company, of Bellefonte, Pa., is now experiencing the greatest boom since its organization, six or more years ago. The force of men has been increased and it is necessary to run the works 12 hours every day, and the company has orders sufficient ahead to keep them busy for months to come.

Pittsburg parties are in communication with the East Liverpool, O., board of trade, negotiating for the location of a glass plant here, to employ 150 men. They want a lease and a free site. The board of trade has taken the matter up, but refuses to give the names of the parties concerned.

The Greenville, Pa., Weldless Tube Company has announced that the plant will be enlarged, and an order for new machinery has been placed, consisting of engine rolls and benches, for the manufacture of larger sized tubing than is being turned out at the plant at the present time.

Work was resumed in all departments of the Britton tin plate mill at Cleveland last week, the strikers accepting the terms of the company and going back to work. Work has also been resumed in all departments of the Union rolling mill.

The Massillon, O., Iron Bridge Company will furnish for the Cleveland Terminal & Valley railroad a train shed of steel, 80x100 feet, requiring 550 tons of material and costing \$32,000.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen has contributed \$1,400 to the coal miners' fund. This is believed to be a larger sum than any other organization has given.

The Juniata locomotive shop of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at Altoona has commenced ten hours' work per day instead of nine hours for five days.

The mill of the Union Iron and Steel company, at Girard, O., resumed work last week. This mill has been idle for a long period.

Capt. W. H. Bricker and others, have applied for a charter to operate cutlery works at Beaver Falls, Pa.

In a Wrong Seat.

The seat of a jurymen absent from the court was taken possession of by a dog. The Judge, addressing one of the counsel, said: "You see, Mr. Bosworth, the jurymen's seats are all occupied. Are you ready to proceed?" The lawyer raised his glasses to his eyes, and, after a brief survey of the jury box, made the reply: "Your Honor, that fellow might do for a juror, but I should hate to trust him for a jurymen." The Judge, joined heartily in the laugh that followed.

MARKETS.

PITTSBURG.

Grain, Flour and Feed.	
WHEAT—No. 1 red.....	96 99
No 2 red.....	93 94
CORN—No. 2 yellow, ear.....	36 37
No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	36 37
Mixed ear.....	35 36
OATS—No. 1 white.....	25 26
No. 2 white.....	24 25
RYE—No. 1.....	55 56
FLOUR—Winter patents.....	5 40 5 50
Fancy straight winter.....	5 00 5 15
Rye flour.....	2 50 3 00
HAY—No. 1 timothy.....	10 25 10 50
Mixed clover, No. 1.....	7 50 8 00
Hay, from wagons.....	11 00 12 00
FEEB—No. 1 White Md., ton.....	13 25 13 75
Brown middlings.....	10 50 11 00
Brn, bulk.....	2 50 3 00
STRAW—Wheat.....	4 75 5 00
Oat.....	4 75 5 00
SEEDS—Clover, 60 lbs.....	4 75 5 00
Timothy, prime.....	1 45 1 65
Blue Grass.....	1 75 2 00

Dairy Products.

BUTTER—Elgin Creamery.....	21@ 22
Ohio creamery.....	18 19
Fancy country roll.....	12 14
CHEESE—Ohio, new.....	8 9
New York, new.....	9 10

Fruits and Vegetables.

BEANS—Hand-picked, 3 bu.....	1 25 1 30
POTATOES.....	2 25 2 50
CABBAGE—Home grown, bli.....	75 1 00
ONIONS—per bu.....	85 90

Poultry, Etc.

CHICKENS, 2 pair.....	30@ 35
TURKEYS, 2 lb.....	13 15
EGGS—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	15 16

CINCINNATI.

FLOUR.....	4 60@ 4 85
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	90 97
RYE—No. 2.....	50
CORN—Mixed.....	30 31
OATS.....	19 20
EGGS.....	12 13
BUTTER—Ohio creamery.....	16 18

PHILADELPHIA.

FLOUR.....	5 00@ 5 30
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	99 1 00
CORN—No. 2 mixed.....	35 36
OATS—No. 2 white.....	25 26
BUTTER—Creamery, extra.....	18
EGGS—Pa. firsts.....	15

NEW YORK.

FLOUR—Patents.....	5 50@ 5 90
WHEAT—No. 2 red.....	1 01 1 02
CORN—No. 2.....	35
OATS—White Western.....	24
BUTTER—Creamery.....	15
EGGS—State of Penn.....	18

LIVE STOCK.

CENTRAL STOCK YARDS, EAST LIBERTY, PA.	
CATTLE.	
Prime, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs.....	4 90@ 5 00
Good, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs.....	4 75 4 80
Fair, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs.....	4 50 4 60
Fair, 700 to 900 lbs.....	4 00 4 50
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	3 50 3 95

SHEEP.	
Prime, 95 to 105 lbs, wethers.....	4 00@ 4 25
Good, 85 to 90 lbs.....	3 75 3 80
Fair, 70 to 80 lbs.....	3 50 3 85
Common.....	2 50 3 25
Culls.....	1 00 1 50
Choice lambs.....	4 50 4 85
Fair to good lambs.....	4 00 4 50
Veal calves.....	8 00 8 75