QUEER THINGS IN JAPAN.

EVERYTHING BACKWARD ACCORDING TO OUR WAYS.

The Roof Is the First Part of the House They Build—Saw and Plane Backward—The Government Is Liberal and Progressive — Beautiful Ivory and Wood Carving—Railway Lined with Cherry Trees.

The quaint and novel scenes in Japan grow upon one as he prolongs his stay, writes a correspondent.

The higher class of men have adopted, to a large extent, our method of dress. But, with few exceptions, the women continue the native dress, which is decidedly more becoming. Those that wear our style of dress are apparently uncomfortable and wear it only when receiving foreigners. Even the men wear Western suits only when appearing in public.

The higher classes usually have two separate though connected houses—one furnished in foreign style with chairs and tables, the other with no furniture. The former they use but little except when receiving and entertaining foreigners. Even those educated abroad seem to prefer in home life the old Japanese ways.

The middle classes of men are gradually adopting Western dress. Some costumes are ludicrous in the extreme. You often see a coat over a kimora or an odd-shaped hat, a coat and bare legs.

The climate being warm in summer the working classes wear only a breech cloth, and in the interior one sees laborers without a garment of any kind. The women are no more modest than the men.

Coming down from the interior last week I passed a pool where a score of men, women and children were bathing together, and to the surprise of our little party particularly the ladies, the entire lot scurried out to the roadside to see our line of jinrikishas pass. To them it was apparently but natural to be clad only as nature had provided.

BUILD THE ROOF FIRST.

In the winter the Japanese will not wear half as much clothing as a foreigner. But then the natural Japanese do everything by contraries, viewed through our eyes. For instance, the roof is the first part of the house they build. That is constructed on the ground and then the house is built under it, the roof being raised as the construction goes on. This is done in the construction of houses with several stories as well as those with one.

The Japanese saw and plane backward. All their doors slide instead of opening. Their tailors make the lining of a suit first their books are printed backward, and you read from the rear; flower are gardens in the rear of the house; keys turn to the left instead of the right; vehicles and rikis has pass to the left; trains run on the left hand track, and everything else is contrary to our system, except their modern innovations, patterned upon Western ideas and inventions.

Japan is rapidly undergoing a social and industrial revolution. She has a military system founded upon the best experience of France and Germany; a navy modelled upon the best French and English teachings. She has made herself dockyards and built and bought steamers for foreign trade. She has constructed railroads throughout her country, but she uses the little English compartment cars, and as yet has no sleeping cars, though they are badly needed.

She has established a cheap and efficient telegraph and postal service and a telephone service in her chief cities. Street cars are used in several cities, and in Tokio an electric street railroad is to be constructed. The chief cities are lighted with electricity, and, indeed, Japan is becoming a thorough Western country.

LOOKING FORWARD.

The government is liberal and progressive, and what private corporations will not undertake it does. While it owns the telegraph lines and many of the railroads, all of which are profitable, private corporations own half of the railroads, the telephones, electric light plants and street railroads. Railroads and street car lines pay very handsomely. They are operated cheaply, and the average Japanese is so daft upon the subject of riding that he will spend his last cent to travel to a distant town and walk back. The beds of the railroads are sodded and beautified. One railroad has 200,000 cherry trees planted along the sides.

There are something like 40,000 public schools in Japan. The buildings are comfortable and education is compulsory.

UNRIVALLED CARVING.

In ivory and wood carving Japan is ahead of the rest of the world; in lacquer work and in pottery and vases she has no rival. The work of the Japanese artists in painting flowers and birds is not equalled. Yet no Japanese artist can paint a horse or the portrait of a foreigner. They can't paint a horse because they have no horses that we would call horses. They are runty, rough-looking, knotty brutes.

Japan is not adopting the Christian religion. There are thousands of Christian missionaries, but they are said to be accomplishing little. There is no Sunday in Japan, as with us. It is like all other days. Stores are open, business goes on as usual. The Japanese, however, have many days of rest or recreation. For instance, last Sunday was a day on which the birth of male children in Japan during the preceding year is celebrated. In front of every residence in which a boy baby was born was a long bamboo pole, from which numberless paper fish floated in the breeze. These fish had a wire holding the mouth open; the wind blew through them and they appeared pretty and natural. The fish are presents from friends, and the number hanging to a pole indicates the popularity of the family. They represent carp, which are said to swim up waterfalls, and thus are symbols of the success the boy is hoped to make in his future struggles in the world. Girl babies don't count in Japan. The birth of one is a misfortune in the family.

UNHAPPY GIRLS.

The poor girls have a hard time of it in Japan. If her parents are poor she is sometimes sold for a term of years, or a marriage is arranged at an early age. She has no word in choosing her fate.

If a husband grows tired of his wife she is easily divorced. When it is known that two of the seven grounds upon which a husband can divorce his wife are disobedience and talking too much it is unnecessary to mention the others. Among the lower classes divorces are very common, and it is so common for a man to have several alleged wives.

Twelve and fifteen children in a family is not unusual. The mother takes charge of the youngest infant, which she straps upon her back going about her duties. The other babies are strapped on the backs of the older children, who run about the streets with them. It is not unusual to see a child of four or five years old with an infant upon its back. They play about the streets in this way.

At the hotels few of the waiters understand English. In consequence the menus are printed in English, with numbers for each dish in English and Japanese characters. You call the number in Japanese or point to the Japanese character opposite the dish in ordering.

Like everything else in Japan, the theatres are constructed backward. The stage is at the entrance and there is a bamboo curtain between it and the street. Between the audience and the stage is nothing. The curtain in the rear of the stage and on the street is raised at the commencement of the performance and kept up for a time in order to catch the populace. They are permitted to see enough of the performance to become interested. Then the curtain is dropped and many are induced to spend a few sen for admission.

PILGRIMS TO SPREAD A PEST.

Thousands of Stricken Men at Mecca, Where Cholera Rages.

One hundred thousand pilgrims are now assembled in the City of Mecca, and as cholera has appeared among them they threaten the health of the world. In a very short time these cholera-infected pilgrims will return to their respective countries to implant the seeds of a direful plague among the nations of the earth.

The Mohammedan pilgrimage to Mecca is a unique custom in the religious history of the world. Notwithstanding the inroads of civilization upon the Orient, 100,000 human beings still undergo the greatest privations in order to kiss the famous black stone which forms part of the sharp angle of the Meccan Temple. The benefits of the pilgrimage are great, for the sins of

THE MECCA PILGRIM.

every pilgrim, no matter how dark they may have been, are forgiven by the Almighty, and the supplications of the pilgrim in behalf of others are accepted by God. Such was the teaching of the Prophet.

As soon as the pilgrim reaches the last stage near the sacred city he makes two prostrations in prayer, and divests himself of his worldly raiments. Then he assumes the pilgrim's sacred robe and sets his heart on Mecca.

The Meccan pilgrimage was a compromise with Arabian idolatry, and no Moslem writer has ever yet attempted to give a spiritual explanation of its ceremonies. It is one of the most curious circumstances in in the history of religion that the superstitious and silly custom of Meccan pilgrimage should be grafted to a religion which is iconoclastic in its practices. The spectacle of the Moslem world bowing in the one direction of a black stone while it worships the one true God stamps the religion of the Prophet of Arabia as one of compromise.

A Mean Fellow.

Mr. Binks—I met a woman to-day that I thought a good deal of once.

Mrs. Binks—Oh, you did?

Yes. I used to do my very best to please her.

Humph!

I did everything I could to win her affection.

My goodness!

And at last I succeeded.

Wha——

She granted all that I asked, and by so doing made me the happiest man alive.

Merciful—

I asked her to come right up to the house with me to-day, but she had some shopping to do, and cannot get here until supper time.

Mr. Binks, I am going right home to my mother.

She isn't at home, my dear. It was your mother that I met. She gave me you.

AGRICULTURAL

The Care of Worn-Out Pastures.

Assuming that the old pasture has been plowed, enriched, and sown with a good mixture of grass seed that has grown well, the grass should be cut in bloom for hay. Nature seems to throw all her energies into the perfection of her seed, the stem being then largely composed of indigestible woody fiber of little feeding value to the stock, while the roots are weakened to the same extent as the new seed is perfected. Therefore, to cut when the sap is in the stem if to gain a more nutritious food and to leave a root in full vigor of growth. When haying is over, the aftergrowth should be grazed with fattening stock or working horses. Do not let milch cows or young stock into such pasture the first season, because is they require so much food for milk, bone and muscle, their manure is poor. Keep sheep off, for they would tear up many of the young grass plants. At the expiration of about 10 days' grazing take the stock off, and run over the field with chain harrows to distribute droppings and prevent the growth of patches of the stronger grasses. In three or four days the stock can be put back. In October or early November give a good dressing of dung, say 12 loads to the acre, spread and leave to the following spring. A daily ration of chopped straw 5 lbs., wheat bran 1 lb. and cottonseed meal 2 lbs., will help both stock and land very considerably, and without it most pastures will certainly deteriorate.

Second year.—In spring chain-harrow, then roll well, and when ready to graze put on the stock. See that the droppings are regularly spread. Should any rough tufts appear after a couple of weeks' grazing, have them mown down with a hand scythe, the cuttings carted off and given to the stock in the barn, and give to these places only a dressing of salt or caustic lime, the latter for preference, in a finely powdered condition. This simple management together with new seeding of poor spots will soon produce an excellent pasture, and moreover will keep it in a good heart and increase its value yearly. This is the method I have adopted after many years' experience and study in old England, where we take far better care of pasture than you do in America.—Prof. Albert A. Jager, England.

Methods in Dairying.

A few weeks ago the British Dairy Farmers' Association visited Switzerland on a voyage of investigation. They found a great many things of value in dairying which they highly commended, and noticed the great care, skill and neatness manifested by the people in the manufacture of dairy products. Under the most progressive methods the Swiss farmers have not only added to the value of their products within the past ten years but greatly advanced the productive capacities of the soil. Dr. Gerber of Zurich, has been a prominent factor in these advanced methods, and for many modern appliances the dairymen of that country are indebted to him. With so progressive a people it is no wonder that we find the following facts: In Canton Zurich two-thirds of the farm business is devoted to dairying and it pays a net return of 4 per cent. on the value of the land and 5 per cent. on the improvements. Hay yields two or three tons per acre and sells at $12 per ton in ordinary seasons, whereas a decade back it was $18 to $25. Milk has held steadier in price, the Zurich farmers receiving an average of $1.27 per cwt. for milk sold in 1891 to butter and cheese factories, against $1.15 twenty years ago, and for this whole period the price has averaged $1.18. The pasture and mowing is better now than then and yields larger crops, so that dairying is more profitable in Zurich than in former years. The farmers get about 3 cents per quart for milk sold to peddlers, who retail it at 4 and 5 cents, making about 33 per cent.

Clover-sick Land.

It has been noticed that it is almost impossible to grow red clover year after year upon ordinary farm soil. Old field of clover become thin and yield little, and are then said to be clover-sick. Experiments have shown that when land is in this condition none of the usual manures or fertilizers can be relied upon to secure a crop of clover, and the only means of insuring a good stand and yield is to allow some years to elapse before repeating the crop on the same land. The general result of the trials on field soil was that neither organic matter rich in carbon as well as other elements, nor ammonium salts, nor nitrate of soda, nor mixed complete fertilizers, availed to restore the full clover-yielding capabilities of the soil. However, where some of these were applied in large quantity, and at considerable depths, the results were better than where they were used in only moderate quantities and applied only on the surface. On a rich garden soil, however, red clover has grown luxuriantly every year for forty years, so that the primary cause of failure is neither fungus nor insect diseases, nor noxious excretions, nor shade of grain crops, but is probably due to the exhaustion of mineral fertilizers, or available combined nitrogen, or nitrifying microbes within range of the roots. Rotation, however, cures clover-sickness.

Caution as to Temperature.

When an apple is frozen it makes a good deal of difference how it is thawed. When your ear is frozen don't thaw it suddenlys When onions are frozen if thawed very gradually they will come out all right. What has this to do with dairying? This much: Sudden extremes of temperature disintegrate. Don't chill the cream with chunks of ice in the churn and expect the best results. Don't heat it suddenly from a low degree to the churning temperature and churn immediately. Let it stand for some time at the right temperature and better results may be expected. Temperature has very much to do with success in handling milk and cream—the right temperature is one of the essentials. But not only has the degree of heat very much to do with results, but sudden changes have peculiar effects and should be avoided, especially just previous to or during manipulation.

Skim Milk for Pigs.

A reader having asked the Breeder's Gazette as to whether he could afford to pay 20 cents per 100 for skim-milk to feed pigs, with hogs selling at four and one half cents per 100 live weight, Prof. W. A. Henry answers as follows:

"As a bare proposition with no contingencies I would say yes. For young pigs the feeder can find nothing equal to skim-milk. It gives them a start that nothing else can. For such, feed three pounds of skim-milk to one of corn meal. A mixture of half corn meal and half shorts is perhaps more satisfactory from a practical standpoint, though not theoretically. I think shorts are less harsh in the young pig's stomach. Certainly pigs fed shorts and milk do wonderfully well, while theoretically corn meal is the complement of the milk. As the pigs grow older, unless there is milk in abundance, reduce the milk gradually.

ONE VOYAGE AROUND CAPE HORN

Samples of the Weather that May be Found in that Locality.

The British ship Speke, which left Antwerp 334 days ago for San Francisco, ended her voyage on Saturday, and from the reports of her crew it was one of the most unlucky voyages around Cape Horn that have been undertaken for many months. The vessel sailed on June 16, 1894, and all went well until Aug. 22, when the vessel was almost within sight of Cape Horn. On that day a gale that had been blowing all the preceding day increased to a hurricane. Several of the lighter sails were blown to ribbons, and the first mate, J. Bruton, went aloft with the men to assist in replacing them. While he was in the fore-rigging the ship gave a lurch as a great wave broke on deck, and about the same instant a dark body was seen to fall from the yard of the foremast through the flying spray and sink into the sea. It was the first mate who went overboard and was never seen again. It was impossible to make any attempt to save the drowning man. A seaman named Denerice was badly bruised by being knocked about the deck, and several others were laid up from bruises received the same way. The next day the gale moderated somewhat, but

A HEAVY CROSS SEA

was running and the ship labored heavily. The relieving tackles on the tiller were carried away and the next wave that broke on the deck washed away the midship steering gear. Some new sails were set, but they were blown away again, and the vessel rolled and pitched at the mercy of the storm. Then came a week of moderate weather and advantage was taken of it to make repairs.

On Sept. 7, the vessel passed Cape Horn, and five days later, after weathering a succession of gales, another hurricane was encountered. The first blast of the storm threw the ship on her beam ends and the sea made a complete breach over the hull, washing the deck clear. The rush of the tremendous body of water over the decks worked havoc among the rigging, and the masts swayed and tottered as though about to fall. One of the seamen named J. Auger was assisting in furling the mizzen topsail when the crash came on the deck. The shock was felt so strongly aloft that he was shaken from his perch and fell into the sea. He made a struggle to swim after the vessel, but nothing could be done to save him and he was drowned. He was only 20 years of age and a native of France. For nearly ten days the hurricane continued without intermission, and during that time the vessel drifted back nearly to the Cape again.

Then came a day of fair weather, but the next morning saw the storm in all its fury again. The seas once more were

WASHING OVER THE VESSEL,

and one wave larger than the rest swept over the bulwarks, smashing in the door of the forecastle and flooding the quarters of the men. As it went aft it took off the skylight of the cabin, filling the rooms of the officers with water and damaging a quantity of provisions in the storerooms. Many more sails were blown away, and the men of the crew were so knocked about by the storm and rolling of the ship that only nine were fit for duty by the time the storm subsided. The moderate weather was only for a few days, when it seemed that the storm had gathered all its forces for a final effort to wreck the vessel. All of Sept. 27 the hurricane was more severe than any of the previous days, and the seas rose almost like mountains. During the height of the tempest the midship wheel rudder chain parted. At the same time the relieving tackles parted again, and the rudder was almost useless. Nothing could be done to steer the vessel while the storm lasted, and in that time she got broadside to the seas. At times it seemed that the vessel would roll completely over. Then the cargo began to move to starboard, and by the time the rudder chains were temporarily repaired the vessel had a heavy list. It was impossible to get the steering gear in repair so that it could be depended upon, and the vessel was headed for the Falkland Islands.

It took her nearly five months at Stanley to make repairs, and on Feb. 7 last she sailed again. She had fair but variable weather until within 500 miles of port, when a streak of calms was encountered, and it took her twenty-two days to make port. She sailed in through the Heads with every piece of canvas she could carry set, and made a grand circle to an anchorage off Alcatraz Island.

Fond of Books.

H.—Is your boy fond of books?

D.—Very. I gave him a copy of Robinson Crusoe the other day and he got lots of fun out of it.

H.—I didn't know he could read.

D.—He can't read, but he tears the pages out and makes boats of them. Oh, yes he's fond of books.

HO

P

"Mrs. P

quisitive,

cloth spread but there [illegible] They look like new cloth," remarked Mrs. Price looking out of the window on the little side porch.

"They are indeed," was Mrs. Peters' laughing rejoinder. "They are pieces of my boy's pants for patches. The garment has faded somewhat, and not to make the contrast too startling, and subject him to unkind remarks, I am trying to obtain the same shade on the new piece as we see on the old."

"That is an idea I have never thought of," said Mrs. Price. "It would be a good plan when putting new sleeves in gingham or calico dresses, wouldn't it?"

"Yes, you would probably have to wash the material in that case."

"I have seen much discussion of dish-washers recently," remarked Mrs. Peters. "While visiting a friend I found she had discarded her dishpan and used not exactly a dishwasher, but certainly a very orginal plan."

"I should like to hear about it," said Mrs. Price, in an interested tone.

"She uses a fifty pound lard can, which she obtained from a store. Pile the plates neatly at the bottom, pack the saucers around them, then the cups and the glasses last. She says they will not crack if laid on their sides. She washes the silver and knives separately, as they are apt to be scratched. Cut a light shaving of soap into the can and pour two kettles of hot water over the dishes. Set the can on a wooden chair close to the table. Then after a few moves of a long handled dish mop, the dishes were piled on the table to drain, and I must say they looked very nice, and in a very short time a large pile was washed and wiped."

"That sounds very easy," sighed Mrs. Price. "I hope it would prove so in practice."

"Suppose you try it and see," was her friend's suggestion.

"I have been experimenting with boiling eggs," Mrs. Price remarked, after a pause.

"And what is the result?" inquired her listener.

"I have decided that the most perfect way is to lay the eggs in the hot saucepan and cover with boiling water. Let them remain where the water will keep hot, but not boiling, for ten minutes."

"I have a new method, too, which I have both seen and tried myself. Break four or five eggs, keeping the yolks whole and separate. Beat the whites to a stiff froth and pile on an earthen plate, which will not injure. Drop the yolks at regular intervals into the whites. Set in a moderate oven until the whites are brown, when the yolks will be cooked just right for most people. A little watching will prevent their getting too hard."

"I think that must be a pretty dish," was Mrs. Price's comment.

"That is one of its advantages," was the answer.

Flies Hate Lavender.

"I never use window screens," said a wise housekeeper the other day, "because I have a fancy that they shut out all the air in hot weather, and, besides, they serve to keep the flies in the house equally as well as out."

"But I never see a fly in your house," said her friend. How do you manage it? For my part, I must confess that screens or no screens, my summer means to me one long battle with the little pests."

"My remedy is a simple one," said the good housekeeper, "and I learned it years ago from my grandmother, when I used to sit and watch her putting bunches of lavender flowers around to keep the flies away. My method is simpler. I buy 5 cents' worth of oil of lavender at the drug store and mix it with the same quantity of water. Then I put it in a common glass atomizer and spray it around the rooms wherever flies are apt to congregate, especially in the dining-room, where I sprinkle it plentifully over the table linen. The odor is especially disagreeable to flies, and they will never venture in the neighborhood, though to most people it has a peculiarly fresh and grateful smell."

How Fruits Are Served.

Oranges are cut in half and eaten with an orange spoon. The peel serves as a cup.

Pineapples are peeled, cut in very thin slices, the core cut out, and served with sugar.

Bananas are slightly opened at one end and served on individual fruit plates.

Berries are usually put in a large berry bowl and served in individual dishes at table.

Grapes are placed on a large fruit dish with green leaves around edge.

Often several kinds of fruit are placed in one large fruit dish on the table, and each person provided with an individual fruit plate.

Oranges eaten in the natural state, or with the pulp prepared and simply sprinkled with sugar, are so delicious and healthful that it seems almost unnecessary to suggest other ways in which they may be utilized.

Recipes.

Lettuce Salad.—Carefully wash and place in the salad dish sufficient lettuce for dinner. Slice four hard boiled eggs over the top. Then take a cup of rich, sour cream, half cup of vinegar, three table spoons of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt Mix well and pour over the lettuce.

Strawberry Trifle.—Put a quart of strawberries in a fruit dish, sprinkle with sugar and powdered cracker. Then make a custard of one and one-half pints of milk, three eggs, half cup of sugar and a spoonful of corn starch. Pour over the berries scalding hot. When cold cover with whipped cream and serve.