



ESTHER GOULD'S BOOK REVIEW AND TRAVEL PAGE



ON TO CHINA

It might almost seem that there has been a conspiracy of silence in the education of most of us concerning China. As if we who are mere upstarts on the face of the globe had decided to ignore this far older inhabitant. It comes, then, as rather a shock to our unprepared ears to learn that the most brilliant of the Chinese dynasties, that of Tang, was coincident with another of its three great dynasties came at the time of the Middle Ages, and that during the Renaissance the Ming Dynasty held sway.

Of these three great dynasties, the earliest was unquestionably the greatest. Which means that between the years of 618 and 970 China reached her highest development in statesmanship, religion, art. The question of why she has never progressed farther is one of those which has kept the historians young by making them feel their importance in the world.

The backwardness of Chinese writing has been put forward as one undoubted reason. Another is the fundamental conservatism of the Chinese people. They believe that heaven and earth, what we call the Laws of Nature and the doings of men are all parts of an indivisible whole. As easily change the one as the other. This makes for an extreme conservatism, a deep rooted Fatalism, a

static conception of the world not conducive to change.

"Hesitating like the man who traverses a river in winter, Cautious as the man who fears his neighbors on all sides, Reticent, like visitors, Simple, like unused material, They were wide as profundity They were impenetrable as opacity."

This, written of the ancients can also be applied to the modern Chinese. These characteristics besides delaying progress have given China the longest continuity of civilization the world has ever known.

Gowen and Hall, Hall being better known as "Upton Close," have written a readable and penetrating history of China.

WHY THEY ARE LOST

"A FAREWELL TO ARMS"

By Ernest Hemingway
Charles Scribner's Sons

The most striking thing about Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms" is the matter-of-fact cynicism. If he were a shoe salesman telling of the numbers of his stock he could not use a more unemotional tone than the one in which he gives his devastating summing up of life's irony. "If people bring so

much courage to this world the world has to kill them to break them, so of course it kills them. The world breaks every one and afterward many are strong at the broken places. But those that will not break it kills. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure it will kill you too but there will be no special hurry."

This is tremendously effective because of its very matter-of-factness. In the same way his touching on emotion is effective because it is done so unemotionally. When a comrade is killed. "He looked very dead. It was raining. I had liked him as well as anyone I ever knew."

Hemingway, in his other books, has told of the "lost generation." In this book it is as if he meant to tell how and why they are lost. He makes his record of the heartlessness and brutality of war as the experiences of one man only, with no grandiose gestures of wide comprehension, and always in this terse economical prose, as unemotional as a shoe salesman taking inventory. The love story he has placed against the background of war is as brutal and tragic as the war itself.

All this does not make for pleasant reading, though its sincerity makes it important. It is a record of an experience which though extreme was anything but unique. If we wish to know things we must give up the luxury of pleasantness.

News Shorts

She Was A Dog, Anyway

Toronto, Canada.—This composition by a pupil of foreign parentage is making board of education members chuckle: "I have a pet dog. His name is Nell. My dog can do many tricks. He can stand on his two last feet and beg for eats. He is always by my door when I come home from school. One day my dog made four pups. One was a spaniel, one was a bull and two were hounds. He always stayed by his pups. He was a good mother."

Turkey Crop High-Prices Too

Washington.—The turkey crop this year is larger by 9 per cent than that of 1928, and most of the increases are in the Eastern and Southern states. Pennsylvania leads with a 25 per cent increase. 52 per cent of the crop will be ready for Thanksgiving increased from 14.4 cents per pound in 1918 to 30.8 cents in 1927

"Dead" Snake Is Alive

Colorado Springs.—A "dead" boa constrictor in a taxidermy shop caused

a panic when it came to life as the operators were starting to skin it. The twenty foot snake had been in a private Zoo on Cheyenne Mountain, where the temperature hovers about zero. The constrictor was found frozen stiff, and sent to the taxidermy

shop for mounting. The heat of the shop revived the constrictor.

Over in Russia the communists are now advocating the adoption of a three-day week for workers. This will give four days a week for propagandising.

Old England

A SHOP IN WINNETKA DISPLAYING

English Antiques

THE CHIMNEYS

Center Street
at Hill Terrace

RAYMOND-WHITCOMB

R OUND THE WORLD CRUISE

▲ THE TIME—106 days from New York to New York—weeks shorter than the ordinary world cruise, but with no sacrifice of time ashore. Sails Jan. 21, 1930.

▲ THE CRUISE-SHIP—S.S. "Columbus" (32 000 tons) recently North German Lloyd flagship. Her superior speed enables this magnificent liner to shorten appreciably the steaming time between ports.

▲ THE ITINERARY—Eleven days in India-Ceylon-Java-Siam-Peking-Korea-Japan—in all 29 Oriental points, besides Egypt and many other Mediterranean and Pacific ports.

▲ THE RATES—\$2000 and up, with accommodations for 230 members from the minimum rate up to \$3500.

OTHER CRUISES for 1929-1930

West Indies

New Holland-America Line S.S. "Statendam"
December 21 & January 9 (16 days)
January 29 & February 25 (25 days)

Round South America

Cunard S.S. "Samaris"—February 1

Mediterranean

Cunard S.S. "Carinthia"
Winter—Jan. 23 Spring—April 8

North Cape-Russia

S.S. "Carinthia"—June 24
S.S. "Franconia"—June 28

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