

## REVIEWS

### BOOKS

**China and Japan, Natural Friends—Unnatural Enemies**, by Sun Yat-sen. (Shanghai, China United Press, 1941, 182 pp., US \$1.00)

**Fundamentals of National Salvation**, by Wang Ching-wei and others. (Shanghai, China United Press, 1942, 444 pp., CRB \$100.00)

**Neues Deutschland, Deutscher Geist** (New Germany, German Spirit), by Count Karlfried von Dürckheim-Montmartin. (Tokyo, Japanese-German Culture Institute Niigata, 1942, 170 pp., Yen 2.00)

**The Portuguese Colony of Timor**, by M. H. Gutterres. (Shanghai, 1942, 84 pp.)

**If America Fights With Japan, The Pacific War Foretold Thirty-Three Years Ago**, by Homer Lea. (Tokyo, The Hokuseido Press, 1942, 136 pp.)

*China and Japan*, edited by T'ang Leang-li, contains a collection of letters, interviews, addresses, and one essay on "The Vital Problem of China" by the Father of the Chinese Revolution and the first President of the Republic, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. They reveal a personality of vision and, at the same time, a clear grasp of realities.

The essay, which was written in 1917 and deals with the question of whether China should allow Great Britain to involve her in the Great War, is particularly significant in the light of current events and is of equal interest today as it was when first published. Dr. Sun shows a remarkably keen insight into the real background of politics when, in his opposition to China's entry into the Great War, he writes: "To humiliate a handful of Germans remaining in China and then to pretend to have scored a victory is not only dangerous but also disgraceful and ridiculous. . . . As far as China is concerned, strict observance of neutrality is the way to further her own interests and to preserve her own existence. . . . For centuries Britain has followed unswervingly a certain policy, viz. a policy of seeking friends among those countries which can be sacrificed in order to further her own interests. China is suited to satisfy this purpose, and that is why Britain wants her for an ally." (pp. 43-60.)

The same keen realism is true of the rest of the contents, which make the book a valuable contribution to political literature. A foreword and an epilogue by President Wang Ching-wei, as well as General Itagaki's pamphlet "Japan to Assist, Not Oppress, China" (April 29, 1940), are included.

The main part of *The Fundamentals of National Salvation* is taken up by a detailed discussion of this theme by President Wang Ching-wei. Far from being an apologia, it impresses through its frankness and straightforwardness no less than through its profound patriotism. The book is prefaced by a short biographical sketch of the

President, written by the editor, T'ang Leang-li, as well as by an autobiography by the President himself. The book also contains a number of articles by T'ang Leang-li, Cheng Kung-po, and others, who deal with various aspects of the Peace Movement initiated by Wang Ching-wei. The appendix comprises a valuable collection of documents appertaining to the creation of a new China. Anyone interested in the recent developments in China will find the book an important source of information.

*Neues Deutschland, Deutscher Geist* is a collection of ten essays written by Count Dürckheim, who has contributed an article to this number of our magazine. In these essays, originally published in their Japanese translation, the author has attempted to clear away some misunderstandings which he has found in East Asia concerning questions relative to Germany and Europe. From the titles of some of his essays, viz., "Authority and Freedom," "Beauty and Nation," "The National Foundations of International Understanding," and "The Characteristics of the German Spirit," it can be seen that the author deals with profound philosophical questions. Realizing that the events taking place in Europe today have their source mainly in spiritual forces, the author analyzes them with care and originality. Being German, he deals primarily with the spiritual development of Germany.

The book is not easy reading, but it is an important contribution to the philosophic thought of our time, where old philosophic conceptions no longer suffice.—K.F.

Mr. M. H. Gutterres, a Portuguese resident of Shanghai, who is working on the history of the Portuguese colonies, has just published the first booklet, entitled *The Portuguese Colony of Timor*, of this series. Timor has been much in the news in connection with the Allied invasion of the Portuguese part of the island and the ensuing war developments affecting it. So a study offering information on history, nature, population, economics, communications, etc., of this part of the world is welcome. The appendix includes material on recent events, and there are many illustrations. The patriotic fervor of the author has caused him to weave a halo of romance and daring around the history of the island and its early settlers, in keeping with the pioneering spirit of those Portuguese who have enriched the pages of their country's colonial history.—M.C.R.

Usually the word "timely" is applied to a book that has just appeared. Homer Lea's book, however, is extremely timely although it was already published in the USA under the title of *The Valor of Ignorance* in 1909. The Hokuseido Press has done well to bring it back from oblivion and republish it in an abridged version. The timeliness



of the book is to be seen in the fact that, thirty-two years before the outbreak of the Pacific war, the author predicted its course up to now with astonishing accuracy and made some very interesting surmises regarding its further course. As early as 1909, Lea made a pronouncement which to most of his countrymen must have seemed utterly beyond reason: "National opulence is a source of danger instead of power." He explained this seeming paradox to his countrymen, first, by claiming that the wealth of the United States formed an attraction for the poorer nations, thus by its very existence providing a cause for war, and secondly, by the following interesting sentences:

"[Opulence] produces national effeminacy and effeness, hence there spring up whole tribes of theorists, feminists and, in fact, all the necrophagans of opulent decadence. When wealth forms the criterion of all human ambitions, justice, emoluments, nay, of worth itself, then corruption sets in and patriotism departs."

He warns his countrymen that wealth might provide armaments, but not the morale necessary to a war. He predicts the probability of a defeat of the American fleet in the Pacific and the ensuing loss of the Philippines, Hawaii, Samoa, and Alaska. Since he reckons with the USA not being able to pursue war in a western Pacific controlled by the Japanese Navy, he believes that the war

between the USA and Japan will not be decided by the navy, but by the armies of both nations. Enumerating the weaknesses of the American army, he comes to the conclusion that, after the defeat of the American fleet, Japanese troops would be able to land on the American West Coast and conquer the states of Washington and Oregon.

The modern reader of this old book is struck above all by the passive attitude of its author. Although he analyzes the weaknesses shown by the American military system quite correctly and logically, he seems to be hypnotized by them and incapable of supplying an active thought or offering any suggestions toward rectifying those weaknesses he has pointed out. The author's pessimism is especially interesting at a time when his prophecies regarding the western Pacific have been fulfilled, and the lack of any activity, be it only on a mental level, on the part of American military quarters becomes more and more apparent.—B.P.

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RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR REVIEW:

Freedom, July issue. (*Shanghai, The Asiana Publishing House, 1942, 52 pp., CRB \$5.00*)

Photo-News, special edition "Wehrmacht." (*Shanghai, New World Publishing Co., 1942, 33 pp., CRB \$5.00*)

## JAPANESE MAGAZINES

FOR once we will disregard the weighty matters discussed in the magazines to turn our attention to the very smallest things to be found there, namely, the letters people write to the magazines about their experiences and complaints and the suggestions they have to offer to the community. These letters are not numerous, and you have to search for them carefully, but they are there. Like all small things they have a strange faculty of engraving themselves on the mind to outlast the memory of bigger events. While one may soon forget what the magazines say about *shisosen* (思想戦, war of thoughts) or similar popular problems, one may be haunted for days by the tiny world of the letter writers and their desire to eat more bullfrogs or to re-educate the grocery man at the corner. Here are some excerpts from this type of literature.

### IN THE BUS

In a letter to the *Sekai Ora!* a lady tells the following story: she had boarded a packed bus and was standing on the step with some luggage in her hands, whereupon a young man from inside the bus offered to hold the luggage for her. Later the writer herself succeeded in getting inside and was standing in front of a row of three students. Then the kind young man asked the students to draw closer together. They did this, but the resulting space was still too small for the lady to sit down. So the young man approached the students again, but the result of this second interference into the living-space of the students was more or less devastating. The young man was addressed with *kimi* (thou), which is about the worst thing that can happen between strangers, and had to swallow some other unpleasant remarks. The writer adds

that she felt badly about this incident the whole day, which shows the delicacy of the Japanese mind with regard to the very rare disturbances of the *kimochi* (氣持, feeling, atmosphere) occurring in daily life.

### NO WAR WITHOUT LAUGHTER

In a letter to the *Jikyoku Zasshi*, someone announces his determination to have a big laugh as soon as he finds time. He thinks that the newspaper and radio should provide more fun. They supply plenty of serious articles and speeches, but, if they could contrive to draw laughter from us at night, we would get up with redoubled strength next morning. "A nation that stops laughing is to be pitied." In concluding, the correspondent repeats his grim intention of having a mighty ha-ha in the very near future, and we can only hope that it has been the real thing.

### SCHEMING FOR SPUDS

In a letter to the same magazine, someone lets out the rucksack-wielding women who roam the countryside with a set purpose: "We are going to get vegetables aplenty!" The villages would gladly produce more eatables if there were more manpower handy, so the hiking go-getters should be induced to work in the fields. In this way townspeople willing to work in the green belt could reap the fruits of their own labors, and the towns would become more self-sufficient as regards vegetables. Practical experiences have shown that this plan works, the correspondent asserts.

### "HATS OFF!"

In a letter to the *Bungei Shunju*, a correspondent remarks that in a certain department store the