

ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

The distinguished American Journalist is Traveling Around the World for the purpose of gathering material for a series of articles on the "Famine in China," and his observations are being published in the "New York Times" and "The Nation" with drawings and photographs.

WORST OF CHINA'S FAMINE IS SEEN BY MISSIONARIES.

Shanghai, China. — A famine at close range is not a pretty sight. It gets on one's nerves. Homelessness, starvation, freezing, disease—these are not pleasant to contemplate day and night, for months on end. That some of the missionaries are beginning to show signs of the strain is not surprising, for they, and they alone of all foreigners, are living eye to eye with the famine at its worst. Since they are cultivated, refined men and women, with sensitive sympathies, they are in many instances doubtless suffering more than the famishing Chinese themselves.

It rather interfered with my slumber at Suchow to hear the wailing, plaintive and prolonged wail of a beggar at the gate, crying until far into the night that he was starving, starving, and would perish unless the noble-hearted foreigners would give him help. The numbers of corpses to be seen on the streets of Suchow prove that his prediction is no idle beggar's plea; the mortality among missionaries since the people who ordinarily feed them have themselves become beggars, is really appalling. Three I passed through the streets of Suchow at night, and at every turn there was huddled some shivering, homeless, hungry creature, wailing his starvation cry. There is scarcely a missionary in

honest, they are some the less fellow mortals in need. The very village that I have just mentioned was facing imminent starvation; not a grain of rice or wheat could be found in any of the homes, and the family cooking pots contained only sweet potato leaves. Throughout the famine region the people are subsisting solely on roots, weeds, fungus, bark and straw. The supply of these is now giving out. Nobody but the Chinese could have starved to death so long. The peasants in the famine area have sold their live stock, as well as their other possessions, and now they themselves are glad to eat the fodder. A dried food at present is the refuse of bean oil and peanut oil which ordinarily is used for fertilizer. The few remaining pigs that are now being butchered are so thin that they need not be fed, and the land has consequently more than doubled in price. Having scruples against taking life (the Chinese Mohammedans are the butchers of this country), the famine sufferers are waiting for their dogs and cats to die that they may eat them. I saw dogs so nearly starved that they could not bark. It will be a poor meal that any family will make from its household pets for the latter are only skin and bones.

Starving—Yet Not Hungry. Many curious ailments on the fam-

nothing more can prevent the people from dying by tens of thousands during the next few months. They expect this and plan for it. Already, like rats in their holes, the peasants are dying in their homes. The horror of it comes over one in the concentration camps, where a host of more than half a million refugees, fleeing from the pursuing armies, are gathered under the walls of several cities. The world may have seen worse spectacles of misery than these, but, if so, I have never heard of them. The people are buying themselves straw huts, in no instance large enough to hold a man standing erect, and in most cases scarcely more than waist high. In these on the bare ground, whole families huddle together. The stinky shavers they have erected serve to keep out the worst of the winter blast, and the direct deluge of the rains. But at the best there is misery beyond words, especially when it is remembered that they are only spots upon which to sit and wait for food or death.

Mrs. Sydenstricker, a missionary at Chia-Kiang, was going through a refugee camp a few days ago when she came across a body of a woman lying in one of the shacks. Three children, too small to know that they were motherless, had been sitting by the cold, unheating fire for 24 hours, watching their mother's friend die but not heed them. Worse, to the point of nerve-shattering, have been the scenes I have had to witness of the women beside their uncomfited dead. I fear I can never forget the picture of one woman, standing despairingly beside her husband's body, which lay in the street, from which she was to be taken. The destitution here is really unto death—and a penny a day would keep a man alive!

Children for Sale.

One of the missionary problems precipitated by the famine is what to do about the children that are constantly being offered for sale, or as gifts to the missionaries, by parents eager to prolong the lives of their little ones. Up until the present no mission has felt equal to the task of accepting any waifs or of starting a home for them. The parents are so pitiful to the last degree. The lengths to which mother love will go were illustrated by the answer of one Chinese woman when her child complained that he was crying for his dog. "I know it, my child, and I would give you my arm to eat if it had any meat on it." One woman succeeded in selling her baby to a missionary's next-door neighbor for ten cash (half a cent), and she was so grateful that she got down and knocked her head on the ground. I have had several fine specimens of Chinese childhood offered to me.

The sale of children provides prosperous families with slave girls, adopted sons and daughters-in-law. It also, alas, recruits the brokers of the Orient, Shanghai's traffickers in human flesh are said already to have gone to the famine field. Missionaries in the same city are likewise taking steps to establish an orphanage or home for such children as the parents are disposing of. Many infants, and invalids as well, are being taken to the roadside, or else being thrown into the canal. The homeless refugees are frantic with distress, for countless homes (as well as several native Christian churches) were washed away by the flood which caused the famine.

A stream of relief is now on its way to the famine district, and it must be maintained for five months. The missionaries are busier for with assisting helpers from other parts of northern China, with handling freight boats, wheelbarrow trains, carrying the relief supplies, and with other methods of getting food to the hungry than they are with preaching. But their work is essentially Christian, even if it be not so denominational or missionary in label. China's future world will remember the missionaries' part in this famine.

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It May Be True.

A Pittsburg man who was stopping at a hotel in this city was having a much more hilarious time than the manager of the house thought best for the comfort of the other guests, and he was invited to leave. The man was feeling about as happy when the invitation was extended as at any other time since his arrival in town. He had been sitting in a party in the checkroom of the hotel, and sent a bell boy up to his room after the rest of his belongings. The boy came back with good-sized armful of shirts, neckties and linen.

Standing in the lobby of the hotel the Pittsburger dumped the whole mess into the case and closed it. Then he had a moment's adieu and started out, with shirtless neck, and legs of unmentionables dangling from the case. The manager directed the Pittsburger's gaze upon the array. "Boy, orders the happy one, 'a pair of sash-croppers.' A few minutes later he proceeded before an amused crowd to trim the suitcase from stem to stern. Then, leaving the trimmings on the lobby floor, he latched toward the door.—New York Sun.

Acquisition to Literature.

James Ford Rhodes, whose history of the civil war has added so much to the nation's annals of the United States, was until recently an extensive iron and steel manufacturer of Cleveland, O.

Large Profits from Literature.—Eight years ago Morray began to put away a certain percentage of the profits coming to the state from license-selling for an oblique reason. He had. This now amounts to \$2,500,000.

New in Natural History. Not all English children are well posted on live stock. The following "howlers" are from essays exhibited at a recent show: "The young horses have long legs, so that it might keep up to its mother when wild. How like the lion and tiger are after them to droop them." "The fowl," declares still another, "when they need to cock-fight and when dead for its beautiful feathers." The pig gets its wool coat off in summer. Then we get the wool of it. The pig is regarded as a bad creature."

MEDICAL FAILURES. An Authority Says Three-Fourths of Graduates Are Unfit to Practice.

That 3,000 out of the 4,000 graduates named out by the Medical College of the year are wholly unfit to practice medicine and are ignorant to the commensurate in which they set the was stated by Dr. Chester Mayer, secretary of the American Medical Examiners of Kentucky, at the annual meeting of the American Medical Association's Committee on Medical Education, held in Chicago not long ago. Dr. Mayer said that only 25 per cent of the graduates are qualified. Fifty-eight per cent of the graduates examined in 28 states were refused licenses. With few exceptions these failures took a secondary position in a few weeks after the examination. This does not mean that deficiencies in their training were corrected in those few weeks. Dr. Mayer said that probably by anyone unprepared showed them what the test would probably be and they "crammed" for the examination. Dr. W. T. Gott, secretary of the Indiana Board said: "The astounding charges that I now teach their students how to pass examinations, not how to be good physicians."

At the session of the American Medical Association held in Atlantic City in June, Dr. M. Clayton Thrush, a professor in the Medical College of Philadelphia said: "Many doctors turned out of the Medical schools are so ignorant of anatomy pertaining to pharmacy that they know nothing about the properties of the drugs they prescribe for their patients." Dr. Henry Beasly, Jr., President of the American Board of Medical Examiners, after scrutinizing the papers of a class of candidates for licensure said: "About one quarter of the papers show a degree of literary proficiency that is inadequate for licensure incapable of understanding medicine."

A great many more physicians and chemists might be quoted in support of the astounding charges that 3,000 incompetents are being dumped into an unsuspecting public each year. What the damage does amount to can never be estimated for these incompetents enjoy the benefits of diagnosing, prescribing or dispensing drugs regarding the properties of which they know nothing and then signing death certificates that are not passed by anyone unless the coroner is called in. Probably there is not a grave yard from one end of the country to the other that does not contain the buried evidences of the incompetency and carelessness of incompetent physicians.

During the last year there have been perhaps, half a dozen known cases where surgeons, after performing an operation, have used up the blood and in some cases forceps and the surgeon's scissors have been left in the wound. In some of these cases there have been, where the patient died, there is no means of knowing and comparatively few of the cases where the discovery is made in time to save the patient's life. Reports from Sanitariums for the treatment of the Drug Habit show that members of the medical profession are more often treated in these institutions than by members of any other profession, and that a majority of the patients, excluding the physicians themselves, can trace their downfall directly to a careless physician.

How many criminal operations are performed by physicians is also a matter of conjecture. Operations of this nature are, unfortunately, very frequent in large cities. Some graduated and licensed physicians, many of them of supposed respectability, make an exclusive practice of criminal surgery and surgical treatment. Dr. Henry G. W. Hubbard, coroner of the city of Chicago, estimates the number of criminal operations, annually, in Chicago alone at 24,000. How often these operations are unnecessary, as when death results, the real cause, which the physician signs, and which he signs by himself, and a clerk sees.

Probably one case of malpractice in 1,000 ever becomes the subject of a law suit but in the last year approximately 150 cases wherein the plaintiff has alleged malpractice have been reported by the lawyers, and owing to the social prominence and the favored positions of many physicians not more than half the new suits stated, probably, result in any successful verdict. It would probably not be an exaggeration to state that the total cases of malpractice, not involving criminal operations or criminal medical practice, would amount to 150,000 a year. There has one case to each physician in the country. This estimate is, of course, more or less conjecture. Utmost deaths and permanent disabilities are frequent, and occur with the same frequency as most every one, when life could have been saved, or health restored had the physician been skillful, careful and competent.

Women Should Learn the Art of Fencing

By MARY CLIFTON-HADDAN, Expert English Swords-woman.



The art of fencing of late years has made extraordinary progress, not only amongst the "lords of creation," but amongst our own sex.

It is not only a particularly healthful recreation, but one tending largely to beautify the form and give an elegant carriage and deportment, and, if taken in moderation, to aid even those of weakly constitution; whilst for such as lead sedentary lives it affords valuable results. It has, moreover, the advantage of not requiring any companion in its study, as all the preliminary practices and positions can be acquired alone, and professional assistance may be dispensed with for some months until such progress has been made that the later stages of fencing are reached, when such assistance will become necessary.

Now it goes without saying that as one must walk before one can run, so it is necessary first of all to thoroughly acquire the preliminary positions and movements, and the better this is done, in the first instance, the more perfect and easier of attainment will be the performance later on, when actual foil practice is reached. There is no short cut to perfection, which can only be attained by diligent study and practice, and when it is mentioned that to correctly master the "lunge" six months may have to be devoted, this might at first sight tend to deter aspirants from learning to fence; but in reality it is not so, because the time devoted to correct style and position plays such an important part in the subsequent stages that the time so given is profitably spent, and returns a four-fold interest to the conscientious student.

When all the movements and position with and without the foil have been mastered with the right hand, the same should be practiced with the left.

All fencing displays are preceded by what is known as the "Grand Salute," which is simply an exhibition of all the positions and movements of attack and defense respectively by the opponents, but with the foil point reversed and directed towards oneself, this being an act of courtesy towards the adversary and showing that no "evil intent" is meant. The spectators are, therefore, able to realize the beauty of the true positions and movements of the art of fencing, after which the friendly opponents proceed to a trial of skill between themselves in "loose play."

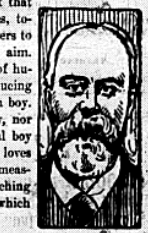
The Education of Boys

By A. H. GILKES, Headmaster Dulwich College, England.

A main point with regard to doing anything intelligently is that the door should have a right aim. In warfare the aim is not to have smart uniforms or well-fitted soldiers; but to beat the enemy; and in business not to have smart counting houses, but a useful trade. And just as in warfare or in business, anyone who mistakes the means for the end, is likely to fail, so with regard to schools, anyone who has not a knowledge of the right aim, but seizes upon what is a means and not an end, and exalts this as though it were everything, is a dangerous man. The more able and brilliant he is, the more dangerous he is. All his excellence only increases the mischief which he does when he takes upon himself a task which he is not competent to perform.

The aim which, I believe, schoolmasters generally set before themselves, in default of a better, is—not simply to give boys a knowledge of Greek or French, German or Latin, science or mathematics—not simply to teach them to swim or to play at cricket and football, to give them an insight into business matters, or to enable them to carry on a business correspondence in what is called English—not simply to use their eyes and ears, or to speak in public, or to exercise authority, or to get their work; it is not simply to shrink from danger and responsibility, or to help their own in every kind of temptation. The aim is not to help them to any single benefit or any little group of benefits. The aim which, I believe, we all have is different from any of these taken singly; but it implies them all, it is beyond them all, and superior to them all.

Perhaps some people may think that this is too vague an aim; but I think that such a thought is incorrect. The aim may be described with much precision. The qualities which make a man are truthfulness, cleanliness, courage, public spirit, kindness, with an understanding quickened in all directions, and most of all in the direction of that Unseen Power which rules us all; these qualities, together with a healthy body, seem to us schoolmasters to be those that should be the production of which we should aim. And since there is some difference in the nature of human beings, the methods which we employ in producing them should be those suited to the nature of each boy. We should not, for instance, scold a willing boy, nor compliment a conceited boy, nor teach a poetical boy nothing but stimulate the imagination of one who loves to deal only with that which admits of accurate measurement. We wish to give to every boy that teaching which will best bring out his good qualities—that which will best make him a real man.



True Mission of the Play

By ETHEL BARRYMORE, Actress.

Many people will say that the theater is for recreation and amusement, and the entire dismissal of any mental effort on the part of the audience. It is of course all of that, and there are many temples of Theatres filled with laughter and music and song where such diversions are offered. But surely there is also a great purpose in the drama, and any big question affecting a great class of the people of the world should surely prove of great interest and value to those who take the theater seriously.

The follies and injustices of the times are the dramatist's themes and tools. When they are skillfully handled they never miss their aim. Sheridan's "Rivals" did more to suppress the blustering, oath-cracking swagger of his period than a thousand tracts could have done.



Sikh Police, Shanghai.

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the famine region who does not retire at night with the nerve-racking cry of a beggar at his gate resounding in his ears. Yet it is impossible, as I have seen; to give help at the gate; such an action would bring down a perpetual mob upon one; a mob, too, in which the less worthy cannot be distinguished from the absolute misers. In these times, only the latter can command attention.

"Tricks That Are Valn.

It is not for gratitude and loyalty that these suffering Chinese are being helped. Three times out of four the beggar to whom handsome largesse has been given, instead of knocking his head on the ground in gratitude, after the Chinese custom, will only importune for more. These poor are like the horse leech's daughters, crying, "Give, give, and like Sheel and Abaddon, they are never satisfied. The impression that these famine victims are going about singing the praises of those who have put bread into their mouths is a mere fancy, the Chinaman is an ungrateful customer, and unless he is closely watched he will, by ways that are dark, secure a double portion of relief for himself.

The women missionaries at one station are giving their time in making over clothes for the innumerable ill-clad refugees; as a result some persons have presented themselves absolutely naked at the dispensary. It was found that some Chinese were coming twice for clothes; now every recipient of aid is marked between the shoulder blades with a slight silver pencil. In a former famine the expedient was adopted by the missionaries of shaving off a portion of one's eyebrow as a means of identification. The authorities at some points require each person who receives government relief to dip his hand into a bowl of dye, but the shrewd natives know how to remove this, and the missionary doctor has been applied to for some chemical which cannot be washed off.

This is the sort of thing which makes all missionary work in China so discouraging. One day I went with a missionary to take a census of a destitute village. Further investigation showed that every family had for this occasion increased the number of its children two-fold, while no less than ten families outside of the village had registered themselves as residents. If there are any more constant and unobtrusive liars in the world than the Chinese, I hope it may never be my lot to have dealings with them.

Cattle Fodder for Human Springs.

An admirable feature of these missionaries is that they are impelled to their labors by deeper motives than the desiring of those whom they seek to help. They realize that even if the Chinese are ungrateful and dis-

are seen by the missionaries. A great number of patients at the dispensaries complain that they are not hungry, and cannot bear to eat food, even when it is offered to them. They do not realize that this is the last stage of starvation. Even more pathetic in the case of the little children, whose mothers have discovered a certain way of making their children eat, by nutrition, nauseates them just enough to keep them from crying for food. Of course many persons are being poisoned by eating the wrong kinds of weeds; in their desperation they fill their stomachs with any green thing they can find.

Disease is yet to reap its worst harvest over the smitten area. Smallpox is not rampant in the center of the famine region, one house in six is afflicted. Medical attention is not sought and vaccination is declined. In some homes I found the family gathered in the same room with a man whose face was swollen, black and outbreak in the worst imaginable case of small-pox. The wife was calmly combing her hair!

Famine fever is scarcely beginning its ravages, although thousands will perish from this cause before Spring. When the worse plagues come the missionaries will be in real danger. One of the doctors at Tsin-Kiang has not yet wholly recovered from an attack of famine fever some years ago. The nervous exhaustion incident to the extraordinary strain and work of the famine relief is taking on some missionaries. One of the most efficient men is able to sleep only a few hours every night.

While on the subject of sickness it is worthy of note that the only living skeletons produced thus far by the famine have been found in the hospitals, and they were suffering from disease as well as starvation. As a matter of record starvation here does not produce the emaciation which is so notable in the Indian famines. Those in the last stages of hunger become bloated and swollen, as with dropsy. The one certain characteristic of the famine, and I have noticed it in the case of two out of three persons met in the rural parts of Kiangsu, is the peculiar fatness of the lips, brittleness, and a tenderness which overpreads the features. This is the signature of starvation.

The Grim Reaper's Harvest.

At the end of January, the famine deaths are only beginning, although from the corpses I have seen, and the poor, bony gray mound, and the rig of white on women's heads, in lieu of full mourning, I should imagine that the grim reaper had been having a rare harvest.

With a calm certainty that is horrible, the missionaries assure you that