

IWAHIKO TSUMANUMA
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Your chairman, Mrs. Heise, has asked me to tackle a large subject, so as my time is limited, I can only tell you very briefly something about the main facts of Japanese living, which may interest you.

The impressions we received years ago as children, when we studied our geographies, has probably always remained with us, more or less-----that Japan is a land of sunshine, cherry blossoms and silk kimonas. This is all true and much more that is beautiful.

The Japanese, as a race, are courteous, thoughtful of the feelings of others, industrious, beauty-loving and patriotic. We cannot estimate the depth of this patriotism. No sacrifice is too great for the cause of the Emperor. The tie existing between Emperor and subject is far closer than any family tie.

The head of a Japanese household is the husband and father. He is the lawmaker and administers the necessary punishment when he returns home from business. Woe betide the child who has misbehaved during the day. There is a saying which runs, "There are three terrible things in Japan--Fire, Earthquake and Father."

But there is another side to the father. He is not nearly as stern as he would have his children think. He loves them and wants them to be happy, but believes such emotions should be safely hidden.

A story is told of a Japanese farmer, who understood that the telegraph wire carried any kind of messages and packages. It was near Christmas time and he wanted to send a pair of boots to his son who was several hundred miles away from home where he was studying in College. He hung up the new pair of boots on the wire and went home. Soon after he had left there, a tramp came by and saw the new pair of boots and exclaimed, "Oh, Lord, I thank Thee for the gift." He took them down, put them on, and hung up his old pair. The next morning, when the farmer came by, he was overjoyed to see the old pair. He thought that his son had received the new pair and returned the old ones.

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with their mature judgement and knowledge of human nature, that they were best qualified to choose a proper husband for their daughter. But now, with the greater freedom accorded women, when the parents bring the young man in question to the house, for inspection, as it were, the young lady has the privilege of rejecting him if so inclined. If however, he makes a favorable impression, she may invite him to tea once or twice, in order to become better acquainted. Then if both parties are agreeable, plans for the marriage are formally arranged.

You may be interested to hear of one or two of the customs of the "Land of the Mikado." The polite method of salutation is to bow three times almost to the ground. Handshaking is not used as a greeting, but only among young people, as a sign of love. Kissing is unknown among Japanese, in Japan. Even a mother does not kiss her young child.

It is said, that once an American kissed a pretty young Japanese girl, whom he liked very much. She screamed as she was so frightened. Then the American explained why he had done it. The next day, the girl came to him and said, "Scare me again."

Japanese houses are one or two stories in height, built of wood, with thatched or shingled roofs. There are some tiled roofs, however. Entering the Japanese house, you will find a small reception room. From this a narrow passage leads to the guest rooms, which in most cases, are in the rear facing the gardens. Here the guests may stroll and enjoy the lily ponds with its flashing gold fish.

Japanese floors are covered with tatami, which is made of straw, about three inches thick, three feet wide and six feet long. These are covered with fine matting and the edges bound with linen. The size of a room is always estimated by the number of tatami.

At one end of the room, there is an alcove, called the Tokono ^{NO MA,}
~~the Kakemono~~, where a silk screen is hung. Before it, is placed

Kakemono

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an expensive vase and flower arrangement. To the right of the alcove, is a row of shelves on which are displayed the family treasures, antiques, jades, etc. SHOW KAKEMONO.

When guests come to the room, silk cushions are placed on the floor for them, also a small tobacco box containing water and a charcoal fire. At the left side of the alcove, is a low writing desk and telephone. On one side of the room is a sliding door, called a shoji. Between two room are fushima, which are sliding panels, covered with elaborate paintings. When the family wishes to make two room into one large room, they simply roll back the panels. SHOW PICTURE.

It may be interesting to you to know that this room, can be used for dining room, living room or bedroom. If you wish to use it for a dining room, all you have to do is to bring in individual tables and serve food. in

In serving dinner, the maid first brings in a low black lacquer table for the guest, then for the host and hostess, Next a lacquer tray is brought on this table careon which are placed one bowl of clear soup, chop sticks, and a wine cup. The hostess then proceeds to serve wine, which is called sake, made from fermented rice. Next is served Bashime or sliced raw fish (horse mackerel) with a bit of ground ginger...then broiled fish, broiled game. A most tasty dish is then served. It is quite similiar to a custard without the sweetening, and contains eggs, chicken, mushroom and some mysterious dainties unknown to me.

It is served in the individual dish in which it is baked and is called chowan-mushi. After this, comes a thick rich soup, then rice, tea, and pickled vegetables. The dessert is fruit. This is the typical dinner for middle class people. MISO SHIRO

And now, if you wish to convert this room into a bedroom, all you have to do, is to move the cushions, tobacco box, etc., to one corner, and spread on the floor two or three silk quilts. These are about two inches thick and filled with cotton. Then the sheets and two or three more covering quilts. If it is summer-time, then a green mosquito netting will be suspended from the four corners of the ceiling.

From what I have told you this afternoon,

I would like to tell you something about the tea ceremony, the flower arrangement, and the religion of Japan especially, after the discussion I heard last evening, but as these would take much more time than I am allowed, I shall have to wait until some other time. Thankyou.