

JAPANESE BENEFITS TO MANCHURIA

A Pleasing Side to their Penetration: Social Work and Trade Development

From Our Own Correspondent.

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After more than a year's delay, it seems that we are at last to have the electric light plant set to work. The materials and outfit had been borrowed from Japanese vendors, hence the Provincial Government, fearing complications, intervened. The plant is ready, but lying idle. Now an arrangement has been come to by which Chinese capitalists are to bring the light to our dark streets and dim shops. In this way the influence of Japan is spreading electricity in towns and cities beyond the limit of the railway area.

HOSPITALS MAINTAINED.

There is no doubt that year by year Manchuria is profiting by the quiet, steady advance of Japanese railway and commercial penetration. Disgraceful as are the morphia traffickers, they are not the only representatives of Japanese civilization, except in some smaller places off the railway track. The large outstanding fact is the South Manchurian Railway, a credit to the managers and to their country. Not only is this splendid enterprise a daily boon to the whole community in so far as travel and commerce are concerned, but there is another side to the company's activities, not so obvious to the outside world.

A considerable sum is annually expended by the S. M. R. on the maintenance of its well-equipped hospitals in such centres as Mukden, Tieling, Changchun and Dairen. Large numbers of Chinese patients are there treated by Japanese doctors, competent in surgery, medicine and dentistry. Not only so, but the Japanese Medical College, which is attached to the big Railway Hospital in Mukden, has a large proportion of students who are Chinese. The College and Hospital are so highly esteemed by competent judges that an exchange of professors is arranged for the current session with the Union Medical College, Peking. Graduates from the Japanese College find suitable posts elsewhere than in the Railway area. The two Chinese doctors of Fakumen City Hospital are graduates of this College. One of these doctors has recently been attending the conference of the National Medical Association in Shanghai.

It may be added that the S. M. R. Company does not confine its philanthropy to the healing art. In social and religious activities it also lends a helping hand. For instance, a new church was built last year by Japanese Christians, and a manse is planned, at a total cost of Y.30,000. Of this amount the S. M. R. subscribed Y.10,000. Railway directors are not always interested in enterprises of such a kind.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

Besides the great advantages reaped by Manchuria from the main Japanese line of rail and its expanding semi-Chinese branch lines, we have small reason to grumble at the merchandise of all sorts coming from the sister country. School and household requisites, articles of attire, the useful and the ornamental, find their way speedily from the Osaka and Tokio factories to the far corners of Manchuria.

Nor is there any question of monopoly. For within the last year or so, Chinese manufactured articles are beginning to oust the less popular foreign products. Indeed, in the matter of soap, to take one example, Shanghai factories seem likely to succeed in cutting out not Japanese products only, but even the famous Sunlight soap itself. Somehow Shanghai Chinese have discovered the secret of manufacturing a good washing soap at a cheap price. Tooth-powder, bottled paste, straw hats—in these and their commodities Japan once led the way. Behind the islanders, slipped in the Chinese makers. And who would buy foreign goods if he could procure "*kuo huo*," "home manufactures?" Thus there is every prospect of lively competition, to the benefit of the consumer and for the improvement of the industries concerned.

THE GERMAN INVASION.

All the more so since Germany has begun again to lift her head. In Kirin this winter expensive German clocks were already being advertised by the Chinese jewellers. It is said that a factory for making aniline dyes may be started in Mukden by Germans who have recently returned from their own country to China. For several years the familiar foreign "indigo oil," (as it is called) having dropped out of the market owing to the war, the local farmers fell back on their former practice of planting a certain amount of indigo. The old-fashioned vats and crocks of the dye appeared once more, adding an extra perfume to the odours of the village street. Alas! home manufacture is no match for German synthetic indigo. Hence if the chemical is actually manufactured, as it were, at their very doors, it will be a bad look-out for the resuscitated native industry.