

PEOPLE'S CHINA



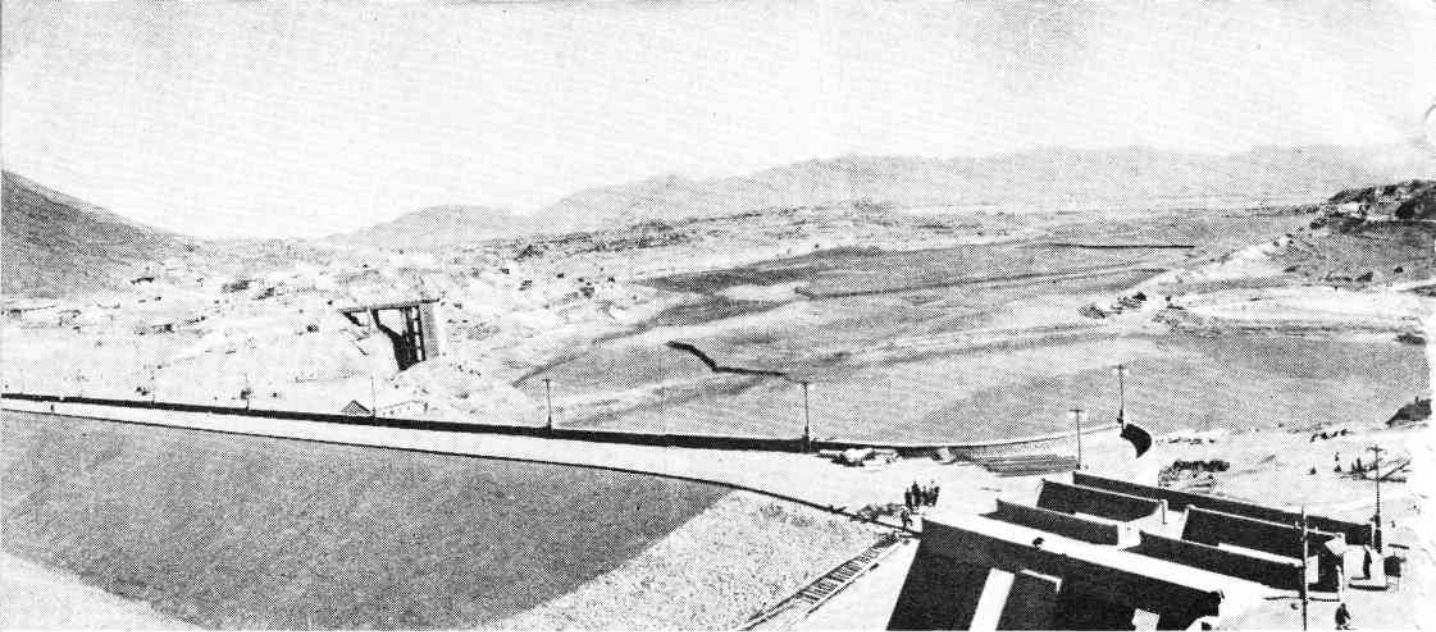
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FORTNIGHTLY

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General view of the dam which now blocks the mouth of the Kuanting Gorge to form a vast inland sea 230 sq. kms. in extent. The intake tower is on the left; on the right is the bridge over the spillway



Work on another stage of the Kuanting project has commenced. Bulldozing the site of the power station which will tap the waters of the reservoir

KUANTING RESERVOIR COMPLETED

Kuanting Reservoir, biggest man-made lake in China, south of the Great Wall, was completed in early May this year. It brings North China's turbulent Yungting River finally under control and ends the flood menace to the thickly populated plain around Peking and Tientsin

For Peace and Trade

Yeh Chou

PEACE-LOVING people the world over are following the progress of the Geneva Conference with close attention. They hope that this conference will settle issues which are important for the safeguarding of peace in Asia and so further the relaxation of international tension.

New China, which participates in this conference on an equal footing with the other great powers, has made and is now making important contributions to the promotion of peaceful co-existence among the nations. These efforts are in full conformity with the peaceful foreign policy it has consistently pursued. Everyone knows that ever since its birth, the People's Republic of China has held the view that, subject to the principle of mutual respect for each other's sovereign rights, countries with different social systems can coexist peacefully. It has also consistently striven to restore and develop commercial relations with all governments and peoples on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

These views have been fully affirmed in practice by China's unremitting and fruitful efforts to promote international trade. As a result, the total value of China's foreign trade early in 1950, at a time when the country had only just emerged from many years of destructive war, had already surpassed the pre-war level of 1936. Alongside the rapid growth of trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, China's commercial exchanges with capitalist countries also showed big increases as compared with 1949. Since then, the annual value of China's foreign trade has continued to grow each year. In 1953 it reached an all-time high since 1930: it was 36 per cent more

than in 1952, or more than six times what it was in 1949.

Trade with 50 Nations

New China has established trade connections with the governments and business circles of more than 50 countries. Governments and private groups in 25 countries have already concluded formal commercial arrangements with China.

It is none the less true, however, that trade between China and capitalist countries is far less than it could be. This unsatisfactory situation is the direct result of U.S. obstruction. The ruling circles of the United States refuse to reconcile themselves to the utter failure of their attempt to dominate China. In 1950, after unleashing their war of aggression in Korea, they went on to declare a "blockade" and "embargo" with a view to crippling China's economy. They also forced their allies to do the same. The governments of some of these countries, disregarding their own economic difficulties and the needs of their own peoples, followed this policy. As a result, trade between China and countries in the capitalist world has not been as fully developed as it should.

The facts of international life since that time have fully proved both the unreasonableness and the ineffectiveness of the U.S. scheme, which turned out to be completely incapable of achieving its objective of checking the powerful economic upsurge in China. On the contrary, despite all this, China has rapidly transformed its colonial and semi-colonial economy

into an independent and constantly growing national economy.

China's Expanding Economy

By the end of 1952, the Chinese people had successfully rehabilitated their national economy. The output of most of the main industrial and agricultural products in that year surpassed the peak figures in the past in China, while the total value of industrial and agricultural production had risen 70 per cent as compared with the liberation year 1949.

According to preliminary estimates, the total value of industrial output throughout the country in 1953, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, rose a further 29 per cent over that of 1952, while the grain crop too was some 2 million tons in excess of 1952, in which year all past grain records had been exceeded.

In 1954, under the state plan now being successfully carried out, the total value of industrial and agricultural production will be 13 per cent higher than in 1953 while the increase in industrial output alone will be considerably greater. China's economy is thus growing at a far more rapid rate than any in the history of capitalism. No country under capitalism could, in fact, achieve such a rate of economic advance.

Instead of being reduced by the U.S. policy of discrimination, China's foreign trade has been expanding with each passing year. First and foremost, economic ties between China on the one hand and the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies on the other have been greatly strengthened. China's trade with these countries, based on friendship, mutual assistance and cooperation, has increased three times in the four years from 1950 to 1953, and grown from 26 per cent to 75 per cent of the total value of China's foreign trade. This is one of the important reasons why China has been able to break through the U.S. "blockade" and "embargo."

It is now universally recognized that the U.S. policy of trade discrimination has boomeranged. It has adversely affected its own economy as well as that of the countries who follow its lead. The Associated Press reported from Washington on March 15, 1954, that Admiral Walter S. Delany, Deputy-Director of the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration, in

charge of enforcing the Battle Act, had to admit that U.S. trade controls cannot seriously hurt the economies of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. In the same month, President Eisenhower, in his message to Congress on foreign economic policy, admitted the harmful effect of these policies on other capitalist states. In reviewing the problems of other capitalist countries, he wrote:

We are forced to recognize that the economies of some of them have been weakened by the disruption of the broad historic pattern of trade between East and West.

According to a United Press dispatch from London on March 23, Sydney Silverman, a Labour member of Parliament, said in the House of Commons debate on East-West trade that it was not possible for one half of the world to blockade the other half. "The only result," Silverman continued, "is that it blockades itself."

"Embargoes" Hurt the West

This, of course, is an accurate statement. The "embargo" has brought much economic hardship to Britain, a country whose dependence on foreign trade may be seen from the fact that 40 per cent of her national production is exported. Trade between Britain and China was once valued at some US\$200 million annually. But during the past few years, as a result of Britain's subservience to U.S. policy, British merchants, manufacturers and people have been deprived of the benefit of several hundred million dollars' worth of Chinese orders.

The discriminatory trade policies of the U.S. cannot but arouse the strong opposition of the peoples of all lands, especially those of the capitalist countries who are bitterly experiencing the results of its lack of realism and common sense. Differences between the natural and economic conditions of different countries necessitate a mutual exchange of commodities. Foreign trade, which not only benefits the industries manufacturing for export but also indirectly brings prosperity and increased employment to the whole nation, is an important factor in the normal growth of their domestic economies. This common sense point is plain to every economist as well as layman who does not deliberately put on blinkers. It is no wonder, therefore, that the peoples of

many lands, and especially those which have had traditional and close commercial relations with China, want to restore and develop their trade with this country.

Their desire is all the stronger because trade with New China and other countries of the socialist camp offers special advantages, among them the fact that imports are paid for by reciprocal exports, thus requiring no draining-away of foreign exchange. The system of equivalent commodity exchange is of special significance to countries which are short of dollars. Experience has proved that trade governed by this principle, based on equality and mutual advantage, is beneficial and free from inconveniences. Such arrangements, moreover, do not need to be limited to two parties; they can also be multilateral. The 1952 three-way trade agreement between the Soviet Union, China and Finland, which greatly facilitates clearing, is a good example.

Trade Without Crises

It is of paramount importance that the economies of China, the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies are continually growing and are free from crises and depression or big market fluctuations. Consequently, they represent the most stable, reliable and ever-enlarging markets—the very antithesis of the capitalist world market, which is unstable, subject to frequent crises and is dwindling from day to day.

All these factors make the demand for normal trade with China irrepensible. Facts have proved that economic interests are more compelling than political prejudices. Since the International Economic Conference in Moscow in 1952, China's trade with capitalist countries has been growing every year despite difficulties placed in its way by the United States. In 1953, as compared with 1952, such trade increased by 29 per cent. The most recent of a number of agreements signed are the Trade Agreement Between China and Burma, and the Agreement Between China and India on Trade and Intercourse Between the Tibet Region of China and India. The latter further consolidated the ancient, traditional and friendly trade relations between these two countries.

While the Geneva Conference has been in session, British foreign trade organizations and

industrial and commercial circles have established contacts with the trade experts of the Chinese Delegation, and expressed their desire to develop Sino-British trade. China and Britain have also agreed to exchange trade missions and conduct discussions for the expansion of trade between the two countries.

Among other Asian nations with which China has concluded trade agreements are Ceylon, Pakistan and Indonesia, and this too has had a favourable influence on the development of commerce. These agreements provide a shining example of how economic relations among Asian countries can be developed. If other countries, including Japan, free themselves from the artificial economic restrictions imposed on them, it may be said with confidence that their trading relations with China will expand enormously.

China—A Great Market

The continuous increase of China's foreign commerce is itself an index of the strength and growth of her economy as well as of its foreign trade potential. China, with a quarter of the earth's population, has always been an important customer on the world market—and now that she is industrializing, she needs huge amounts of equipment and materials for industry, transport, electric power installations and building purposes. The London journal *Great Britain and the East*, for instance, was quick to sense that China's Five-Year Plan offers "an unusual opportunity for the British engineering industry." Moreover, the purchasing power of the Chinese people has been constantly on the increase. The wages of workers in state enterprises rose between 60 and 120 per cent between 1949 and 1952; the income of the Chinese peasants grew by an average of 25 per cent between 1951 and 1952 alone; and the purchasing power of the entire Chinese people was 20 per cent higher in 1953 than in 1952. This too has not only brought unprecedented prosperity to China's domestic market but also created favourable conditions for the expansion of her trade with other countries.

So far as exports are concerned, China has always been the world's biggest source of many important commodities such as soya beans, bristles, tung oil, eggs and certain minerals.

Now China is producing more than ever before, not only of these commodities but also of others for which there is an external demand. It is notable that, in the trade agreements recently signed with Indonesia and Burma, China has undertaken to supply these countries with machinery of various types.

U.S. Policy—Main Obstacle to Trade

The main obstacle that still stands in the way of the full development of China's trading potential with a number of capitalist nations, is persistent U.S. interference with normal trading relations. The U.S. disruption of normal international trade connections is part and parcel of its policy of sabotaging world peace and launching aggression. The attention of the world is now focussed on the situation in Asia; and here, to take but one example, we see that the ruling circles of the United States are engaged, at this very moment, in organizing

some countries into a bloc for conflict with others, with the aim of clamping its colonial rule on the continent as a whole. Such U.S. activities, which create and further aggravate unrest and divisions in Asia, have naturally hindered the normal development of peaceful trade between China and various nations.

To consolidate peace in the world, and restore and develop normal trade among the nations, it is therefore necessary to oppose and check the treacherous activities of the U.S. rulers. This is an urgent task faced by the peoples of all countries.

The People's Republic of China has always endeavoured together with the peoples of all other countries to consolidate peace in Asia and throughout the world, and it will continue to do so. It has also striven, and will continue to strive to develop trade relations with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

New China's Machine-Building Industry

Chiang I-wei

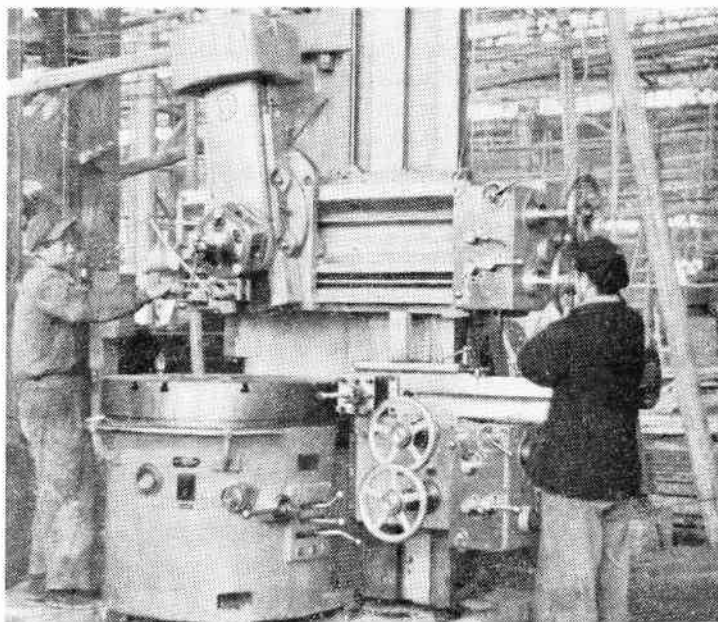
TO accomplish her socialist industrialization, China is building up a powerful machine-building industry which will provide various branches of the national economy with all types of up-to-date equipment. During several years of restoration and re-equipment, China's machine-building industry has made considerable advances. Today, it is already able to turn out a variety of the more commonly used machines as well as some large-sized and high precision ones. About 50 per cent of the machines currently needed for large-scale economic construction are being turned out by the home industry.

Giant new plants are now under construction which will make automobiles, heavy-type

and mining machinery, large electric generators and motors, machine tools of the latest model, precision measuring instruments. The completion of these plants, as well as the reorganization and re-equipment of old enterprises, will gradually turn China's machine-building industry into an independent, well-integrated branch of her industry as a whole, capable of satisfying the needs of the entire country.

The machine-building industry in old China was colonial in nature and based on extremely weak foundations. In 1933, as the statistics of that year show, it constituted only about one per cent of China's large-scale industry as a whole. Moreover, it was incapable of manufacturing big, complex or precision

machines. The chief function of most Chinese engineering works then was to repair or assemble equipment imported from the imperialist countries. Some were able to produce simple parts, but more important spare parts had to be imported. For instance, a "ball bearing plant," built in the period of Japanese imperialist rule, could not itself produce steel balls, which had to be imported from Japan. As for the agricultural machinery works set up by the bureaucratic-capitalists with the help of the U.S. imperialists, they never themselves produced a single agricultural machine but only assembled such machines from parts imported from the United States. They could only be classified, therefore, as auxiliary enterprises in the service of the imperialists. Engineering plants belonging to the national bourgeoisie were few in number and small in scale.



Assembling a Chinese-made vertical lathe in the Harbin Electrical Machinery Works, Northeast China

Rehabilitation and Expansion

It was on this weak foundation that the Chinese people began to restore and re-equip their machine-building industry. In the past few years, thanks to the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China and the People's Government, the devoted labour of the workers and staff and the selfless aid of the Soviet Union, China's machine-building industry has been rapidly rehabilitated and expanded. Its output has increased rapidly with each passing year. As the following table shows, the total value of the output of the state-owned machine-building industry in 1953 was twelve times that of 1949.

Total value of the output of the state-owned machine-building industry

(1949=100)

1950	282.1
1951	472.6
1952	776.0
1953	1272.6

Moreover, the machine-building industry overfulfilled the state plan in each of these years. In 1953, state-owned plants in this

sphere overfulfilled the plan by over 19 per cent in terms of total value of output.

The special feature of the development of China's machine-building industry since the liberation has been the fundamental change in its nature. It has ceased to be a colonial-type industry for repair and assembly work, and has been transformed into an industry that actually builds machines—large as well as small, complex as well as simple. In 1952, at the close of the period of economic rehabilitation, China was already able to turn out over 1,000 kinds of machines and electrical generators and motors. Today, according to preliminary statistics, over 1,900 kinds of important machines and electric equipment items are domestically produced. In old China, home manufacture of most of these products was considered out of the question.

China can now produce over 100 types of machine tools, more than forty of them of Soviet pattern. We will mention three major items. The Soviet-type 724 planer can process casts weighing ten tons, has a maximum planing distance of four metres, and reaches a cutting speed of 60 metres per minute. The Soviet-type 1D 650 giant lathe can work metal objects a metre in diameter and three metres

in length. The Soviet-type universal milling machine has 18 gear settings and a cutting maximum of 1,500 revolutions per minute. Chinese production of these and other powerful machine tools of the latest models helps to reinforce and re-equip the machine-building industry itself.

For the bigger coal and iron-ore mines in this country, New China's machine-building industry has been producing a number of types of complex mechanical equipment which we could never have made in the past. Among them are conical crushers which handle 500 to 800 tons of ore per hour, prospecting drills that bore to a depth of 1,000 metres, coal combines of the latest model, all types of bridge cranes and turret cranes, hoisting winches, hydraulic presses and all kinds of conveyors for mining purposes.

Complete sets of equipment needed to instal a power station with a capacity of 110 kilovolts can now be made in this country. So can 6,000 kilowatt hydroelectric generators with all their accessory equipment. The electric power generated by each such generator can light up a city with a population of 300,000. China is also producing giant 20,000 kilovolt-ampere transformers, and high-tension switches.

Many items of transportation equipment are also being made. These include railway waggons and passenger coaches. The first domestically made locomotive was completed in 1952. For highway transport, we now make many auto-parts and ball bearings. Sailing on the Yangtze are steam vessels of the latest model made by the Kiangnan Docks in Shanghai. These vessels for inland navigation carry about 1,000 passengers and 350 tons of cargo.

Many newly built textile mills are equipped with machines made in China. The textile industry has thus been enabled to make rapid advances.

Factors of Success

All these achievements are inseparable from successes in the reorganization and re-equipment of the engineering industry of old China. An overwhelming majority of previously-existing plants have adopted better methods of organizing production, adjusted the existing equipment and installed new machines while

smaller plants have been combined. Every plant now has clearly fixed targets and is advancing towards specialization. It is on this basis that various branches of the machine-building industry have been put into good shape. At present, the First Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry of the Central People's Government is directing the following specialized branches: machine tools, mining and heavy machines, motors, electrical equipment, automobiles, locomotive-engines, ships and general machinery. Advanced Soviet methods of administration have been adopted in all enterprises where the reform of industrial management has taken place.

The movement to increase production and practise economy, the labour emulation movement, the mass rationalization-proposal campaign, and the campaign to study advanced Soviet experiences have steadily raised labour productivity in the machine-building industry during the past, few years. Labour productivity in the state-owned machine-building industry in 1953 was nearly four times higher than in 1949.

During the nation-wide rationalization-proposal movement, workers and employees of 39 machine-building plants submitted over 5,300 proposals from August to December 1953 alone. More than 3,300 of them have been adopted, with the result that labour productivity in these plants was raised and a sum of 10,500 million yuan was saved for the state through various economies.

Machinery is being used much more efficiently. In the past the cutting speeds of lathes were very low in China. Since the study and wide popularization of the advanced Soviet high-speed cutting method, however, it has advanced, in plants all over the country, from some 10 metres per minute to 200-400 metres per minute on the average (the highest record is over 1,500 metres). The cutting speed of other machine tools such as planers, milling and slotting machines has also been raised. In 1953, the study of Kolesov's cutting method, named after its Soviet worker inventor, raised the depth of the cut from 0.3-0.6 millimetres per run on the average to 1.5-5 millimetres, thus further increasing the efficiency of machine tools.

Despite this rapid development, however, China's machine-building industry still lags be-

hind the needs of the national economy. Rehabilitation, renovation and expansion of existing enterprises cannot alone meet the needs of the country's socialist industrialization. China needs many kinds of new plants: big heavy machinery works capable of manufacturing complete sets of equipment for steel plants and rolling mills, as well as other branches of metallurgy and mining; plants producing locomotives and waggons; automobile plants and tractor plants; plants to make big electrical machinery, electrical equipment and power generators; shipyards and so on. Some such plants are under construction while the building of the others is being planned.

Building of New Plants Under Way

The renovation and expansion of many old plants began in the period of economic rehabilitation (1949-1952). In 1953, the construction of new ones including many big projects of decisive significance to the development of national economy, began on a large scale. The gigantic No. 1 Automobile Plant, now under construction, will have first-class equipment; it will be completely mechanized; all processes will be automatically operated. When completed, it will produce tens of thousands of automobiles annually. An electrical machinery plant to be completed this year is the first of its kind in China and has been designed by Chinese technical personnel with the help of Soviet experts. Its annual output of big power generating equipment will be sufficient to supply lighting for 30 million people or provide industrial power for more than 20 plants the size of the No. 1 Automobile Plant. A precision measuring instrument and cutting-tool plant, which will go into production this autumn, will be able to supply the needs of 30 to 40 big machine-building plants for cutters and measuring instruments accurate to 1/10,000 of a millimetre. New plants under construction include heavy machinery works, machine tool plants, a pneumatic tool plant, an electric wire plant, a shipyard, etc. In addition, further renovation and expansion of more than 100 older plants is under way this year.

The scale of capital construction in the machine-building industry in 1954 is even greater than in 1953.

The Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government pay special attention to the working conditions and welfare of the workers. Before liberation, the overwhelming majority of machines in the machine-building plants were equipped with few or no safety devices, and accidents, including fatal ones, occurred frequently. Industrial diseases were also common. In foundries, for example, the so-called "five poisons"—dust, smoke, gas, lead powder and high temperatures—caused a great deal of sickness. Since liberation, the People's Government has appropriated large amounts of money each year to improve safety and sanitary conditions in the plants. In 1952, in the Northeast alone, 100,000 million yuan was invested by the government in certain important machine-building plants exclusively for this purpose. In 1953, an additional sum of about 70,000 million yuan was appropriated.

The average wages of workers in state-owned machine-building enterprises are now double what they were in 1949. The state appropriates large sums to improve the welfare of the workers and employees, and make medical care available to them. By 1953, the residential housing available for machine-building workers was more than 10 times the total existing at the time of the liberation. According to incomplete figures, welfare facilities constructed in state-owned machine-building enterprises in the past few years include 250 workers' dining halls, 130 clinics, 80 workers' sanatoria, 80 nurseries, 50 workers' clubs and 50 maternity and child-care stations.

In New China, the interests of the state and the workers are closely integrated. Workers know that, in working for the state, they are at the same time working for their own prosperity and happiness. That is the reason for the high labour enthusiasm they have displayed and for their admirable achievements in the restoration and re-equipment of machine-building. Today they are united still more closely around the Communist Party and the People's Government; they are working for the construction, in the not distant future, of a mighty machine-building industry strong enough to fully satisfy the demands of China's socialist industrialization and provide up-to-date machines for the whole economy.

China's Scientists Aid Socialist Construction

Coching Chu

Vice-President of the Academia Sinica

IN the short space of four and a half years since its establishment, the People's Republic of China can record considerable progress in the field of science. The Academia Sinica, in particular, has grown rapidly. By 1954 its research staff had increased sevenfold and its annual appropriations elevenfold. The 16 research units it had at the time of liberation have now grown to 42, operating under the following four departments: the Department of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry; the Department of Biology and Earth Sciences; the Department of Technology; and the Department of Social Sciences. These research units are distributed throughout all the Greater Administrative Areas of China.

In addition to the Academia Sinica, government departments of industry, agriculture, health and others have their own institutes to serve their own particular needs. The Ministry of Agriculture, for instance, has its Agricultural Research Institute, and the Ministry of Railways, its Railways Research Institute.

A Fundamental Change

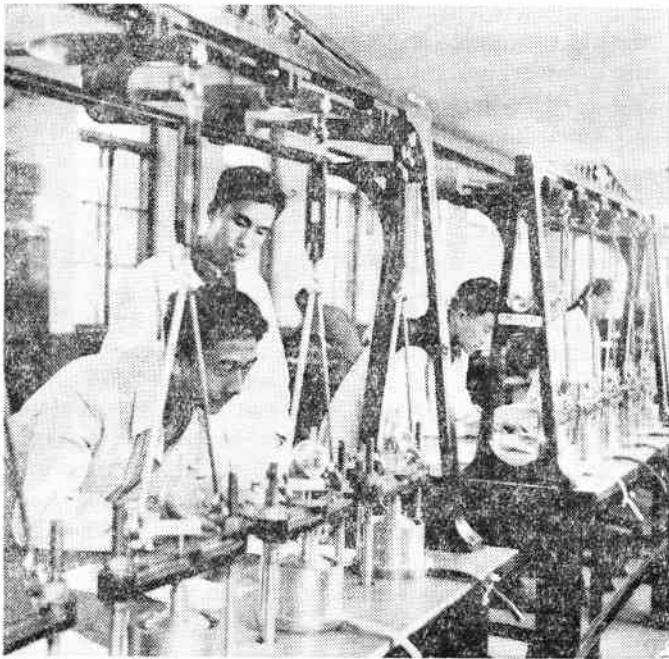
The fundamental change which the liberation brought about in China's scientific work has found expression not only in the increasing number of research organizations and their personnel but also in the complete reorientation of scientific work and in the higher level of political consciousness among scientists.

China's scientists now fully realize that their work is but a part of the people's work and that its only goal is to serve the people.

In addition to their research work in the laboratories, the scientists have in the last few years participated in various social reforms, taken part in the survey of China's natural resources and in the successful fight against U.S. bacteriological warfare in Korea and China. Their personal experiences in these activities have greatly helped in remoulding their outlook. Today they are more conscious than ever of the need to link up theory with practice and particularly with the practical work of production and construction. They have repudiated the old style of scientific work which was characterized by departmentalism. Its place has been taken by planned, systematic collective work directed towards well-defined goals.

One of the first tasks assigned to the scientists of China by national construction has been the large-scale survey and investigation of the country's natural resources and conditions. During the last few years Chinese geologists in cooperation with palaeontologists have pressed forward their work with fruitful results. Many new mineral deposits have been discovered including oil and copper, in both of which foreign investigators in the past claimed that China was deficient. It has also been proved that many previously discovered deposits are much richer than was first supposed.

Seismological services and weather-forecasting have been greatly strengthened. In 1953, nine new seismological stations were set up, bringing the total to 11. Their work has proved invaluable to China's capital construction projects.



Members of the civil engineering and architectural research departments of the Changchun Combined Research Institute of the Academia Sinica making soil tests for the Anshan Iron and Steel Company and other capital construction projects

Under the coordinated direction of the Academia Sinica and the Central Weather Bureau, weather stations have been set up throughout the country and consequently further improvements have been made in short period forecasting (within 4 to 48 hours) and medium period forecasting (from two to several days) has also progressed. The greater accuracy achieved has played an important role in giving timely warning of impending natural calamities such as hurricanes and cold spells to farmers, fishermen and communication workers.

Aids Agriculture

The achievements of the biologists and agronomists in crop seed selection and devising measures to cure and prevent crop diseases and pests have resulted in the increase of cotton and grain yields in many areas. The successful research done on the nodule bacteria of peanut root and soya bean root has raised the output of these two crops by 10 per cent.

The "666" and "ceresan" preparations, which are the principal means for pre-

venting and curing crop diseases and killing pests, are now manufactured on a large scale. Chinese hydro-biologists have developed effective drugs to prevent and cure various fish diseases; they have also carried through an investigation of the lakes in Hupeh Province for the promotion of pisciculture. Soil experts are studying how to make use of China's vast areas of acid and alkaline soil.

Tribute must be paid to China's bacteriologists, entomologists and parasitologists who, working jointly with the health workers, have done such excellent anti-epidemic work that cholera, smallpox and plague—pestilences which were rampant in the past, have been almost completely wiped out. It will also be remembered how thoroughly they smashed the inhuman bacteriological warfare waged by the U.S. imperialists.

In the field of technology, research workers in the iron and steel industry have solved many metallurgical problems such as chilled steelcasting and the production of special steels. The first Yangtze River bridge which is to be constructed soon at Wuhan will be built entirely of home-produced materials. The Institute of Metallurgy and Ceramics has continued its successful researches on the manufacture of nodular graphite cast iron which provides the machine-building industry with new, low cost metals of superior quality. Many of the scientific instruments and industrial testing apparatus which were formerly imported are now made in China in sufficient quantities to meet domestic needs. Home-produced ultra-sonic crack detectors are being used in industry, and polarographic analysis is also employed.

Theory United with Practice

The attention which scientists are now directing to the tasks of production and construction necessitates a closer unity between theory and practice. In its turn, theory is being further advanced through practice. The chemists have greatly enriched their knowledge of catalytic and synthetic chemistry as a result

of their researches in the syntheses of liquid fuel and rubber. In order to satisfy the growing demand for various antibiotics, our biochemists have made a study of the refining and production of biochemical drugs and have made impressive achievements.

The foundation for the study of high molecular chemistry has been built up on the basis of actual needs and practical work.

While working hard to solve urgent practical problems, China's scientists have not overlooked the problems of fundamental research. The Institute of Physics has continued its research into the binding energy of nuclei. Work has continued, and some progress has been made by the Institute of Mathematics on the geometry of matrices and on the theory of the Schlicht functions and the functions of several complex variables.

Progress in Social Sciences

By more closely uniting theory and practice, considerable progress has also been made in the field of the social sciences. Coordinating their work with the excavating work being done for capital construction, Chinese archaeologists have carried out systematic investigations and excavations during which many valuable finds have been made. They have also trained over 160 new archaeological workers. Historians have made several specific studies in modern Chinese history and have worked out a plan of study—which they are already carrying out—on its ancient and mediaeval history. In addition to their study of the grammar of the Han (Chinese) language, Chinese linguists have been to districts inhabited by the national minorities to study their languages and continue their work in helping those national minorities still without a written language to prepare conditions for its creation.

As a result of their work on plans and projects for large-scale construction, scientists from various fields have built up a habit of collective work. The Chingkiang flood detention basin which has already been completed and the Huai River project still under construction, are typical of such projects. The plan now under study for the complete harnessing of the Yellow River and for the exploitation of its resources is another example of such collective

work. This plan includes the work of flood-prevention, the generation of hydroelectric power, irrigation and water transport. Specialists in various fields of science, engineering and agriculture have been organized and are now carrying out large-scale practical research, surveying and planning in the Yellow River basin.

Following the peaceful liberation of Tibet, a group of 57 specialists in geology, geography, meteorology, water conservancy, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, public health, linguistics and sociology have been working in Tibet, conducting investigations and research. A preliminary survey has already been made of social conditions in Tibet and its natural resources. Many mineral deposits have been discovered. A considerable body of scientific materials is thus available as a basis for working out long-term construction plans for Tibet.

Another characteristic of New China's scientific workers is their enthusiasm in studying the experience of the Soviet Union. In 1953, the Academia Sinica sent a delegation of 26 scientists working in 16 special fields on a visit to the Soviet Union. This visit has had far-reaching results. The members of this delegation studied the advanced Soviet experience in scientific research work and gave comprehensive reports upon their return. A large number of Soviet scientific works have been introduced to China. Essays and lectures by Soviet scientists have been warmly welcomed throughout China and have received close attention. The Chinese scientists' respect and admiration for Soviet science is founded on an appreciation of its practical value in their own research work.

To Aid General Line

China's general line of policy for the transition to socialism announced in the autumn of 1953 has entrusted important tasks to China's scientists. The scientists know that science can only be developed rapidly on the basis of a developing industry and agriculture, and that in turn, the technical level of industrial and agricultural production and of economic construction in general can only be swiftly advanced with the aid of science.

In accordance with the general line, the Academia Sinica has today set science the aim

of striving for the realization of the general line and the general tasks of national construction by actively supporting national construction and developing the creative initiative of the scientists, making a deep study of the advanced experience of Soviet science, developing science, linking it with practice and reinforcing the ranks of the scientists.

More specifically, the tasks for Chinese scientists are:

To organize all existing forces for the support of industrial construction—and first and foremost, for heavy industry;

To survey the natural resources and conditions of areas where construction is being carried on;

To develop the theoretical sciences in support of national construction and continue to raise the general level of scientific work;

To adopt measures to strengthen and develop research work in those sciences which are now urgently needed to advance production or which have not received enough attention from scientific workers in the past;

To study and sum up the scientific experience of the broad masses of the Chinese

people, and especially their rich experience in agriculture and medicine;

To strengthen work in the social sciences;

To continue to rally the veteran scientists to carry through immediate tasks and actively train the younger scientists.

In order to ensure the fulfilment of the foregoing tasks, several measures have been taken to strengthen the leadership of research work throughout the country. A secretariat was recently set up to guide research and study in the Academia Sinica. A Committee for Research and Study will be formed in each research institute, and this will be responsible for drafting study plans, leading discussion meetings, examining and appraising scientific dissertations and training research students.

These committees will be composed of specialists both of the Academia Sinica and of outside bodies. Thus, all of China's outstanding scientists will be united to assume the collective leadership of directing research work in the various sciences and in training new scientific workers to satisfy the ever-growing needs of China's socialist construction.

Women Textile Workers —Then and Now

Meng Fan-hsia

Having received many letters from our readers asking for information about the life of New China's women workers, we requested Meng Fan-hsia, a textile worker, to supply some answers in the following article.

LET me first tell you something about the cultural life in our mill. It goes without saying that when the working class becomes the master of its country it must raise its cultural level. A high level of culture is necessary if one wishes to follow the affairs of the state, or to take part in the management of production and make technical progress. The workers in our mill know this; that is why they

are so eager for knowledge and enthusiastic in their studies.

Take Chu Fa-ti for instance. She is a national labour model in the textile industry and has recently been promoted to be the vice-manager of a workshop. Two years ago she was illiterate. She was completely at a loss whenever she was asked to write an article for the press or to give a speech at a meeting. She



Shih Hsiao-mei (right), an ordinary worker in the Shanghai State-owned No. 1 Cotton Mill, is now vice-manager of the mill

would have been only too glad to comply with these requests, but just couldn't. Last year, however, she was sent by the management to a short-term literacy class, and it wasn't long before she could read and write as well as a third-grade primary school pupil. She regularly receives letters from Volunteers in Korea, but now she no longer has to ask for help in reading these letters or replying to them. She has long been a subscriber to the newspaper *Labour*. Formerly, her husband read it to her; now, she reads it herself. "In the past," she says, "those reports and charts were strangers to me. They just seemed to pull a long face at me. Now they have become my best friends!"

Blind Man's Eyes Opened

I must also tell you something about Shen Hsiao-mei, a veteran worker in our workshop. Her family was so poor that she had to start work at the mill when she was only thirteen. Naturally she was illiterate. But after the liberation she learned more than 2,000 characters in just over a month at the short-term literacy class. Today she can read notices on the streets, slogans on the factory walls and simple items in the newspaper. When you gain such knowledge, it is like being a blind man whose eyes are suddenly opened to see the blue sky.

There are many more Shen Hsiao-meis and Chu Fa-tis growing up in our mill. Every evening after work the spare-time primary school is crowded with workers both young and old. It has more than 1,000 men and women students. Besides, over 60 of our workers have been admitted to the spare-time middle school and not a few have entered universities or technical institutes. Hang Pei-lan, a national labour model in the textile industry, and Hsu Hui-fang, an advanced worker, are both preparing to enter universities.

Our Children's Happy Life

Women form the majority of textile workers in China. Our mill alone has over 3,000 women workers. Many of them have children and the mill administration pays great attention to their health. The mill creche is now several times larger than it was. Last year a new creche was built to accommodate over 400 children. There are doctors and nurses to check up on their health and give them all the necessary inoculations. Mothers have time off to feed their babies and the older children have milk and chicken broth every day.

Before liberation, women workers were afraid of having children because they had no time to look after them, and bringing them up was always a heart-rending struggle. During the days of Japanese rule, a woman was discharged the moment she was known to be pregnant. Take our labour model Chu Fa-ti for instance. Before liberation, she had eight children, but only the youngest, born on the eve of liberation, has survived. After liberation, she gave birth to another two children who are as healthy as you please. Many married women workers who were afraid to have children before liberation are now raising families. Chen Yin-chen, a worker in the weaving room, was married for 13 years without having a child. Last year, she gave birth to a boy and she and her husband were overjoyed. They distributed red-painted eggs of happiness to their relatives and friends according to the old custom. The nurses and other mothers in the creche teased her and others like her, saying: "You folks are just making extra work for our Director. A new creche has just been built and now you're having more children. He'll have to build another one this year!"

In the old society, many women workers remained single. There were quite a number of old maids in their thirties and forties in our mill. In the old society, women workers in textile mills were looked upon with contempt. They could only find husbands among their co-workers. But then the trouble was that since both of them had to work, there was no one to look after the children when they were born. Besides, there was no freedom of marriage. Thus many women workers had to remain single and live a lonely life.

Now, the situation is quite different. The parents have regular employment, and the babies are well looked after. The Marriage Law protects freedom of choice in marriage and many "old maids" have got married.

Hua San-mei, a worker in the skinning room, once decided that she would remain single all her life. After the liberation, she changed her mind. When asked why, she smiled: "How could we afford to get married and raise a family in the old society? But things are different today, that's why."

The young girls at the mill no longer have to face the fate of Hua San-mei. They are free to choose their mates and can face the future with confidence. Liu Pao-ling, a worker in the weaving room, hoped that she would find a husband who worked in heavy industry. Two years ago, at a social evening organized by the Youth League members and young workers of the mill and the Shanghai Steam Turbine Works, she made the acquaintance of Tang Chien, a lathe-operator. They enjoyed each other's company and began to write to each other. Last year, they became man and wife. They have their home in Tsaoyang Villas, the beautiful new workers' residential quarters in Shanghai.

In the past, we were constantly worried as to how to make ends meet; we had little time to spare for recreation. Today, recreational activities have become a regular part of our life. Our young workers are fond of dancing and singing. Every week our mill

club puts on a film show. On Saturday evenings, there are all kinds of other activities in the club. Our workers are not only good amateur actors but playwrights and producers as well. It is pretty difficult to say how many of them have actually taken part in cultural activities, but I can tell you this: last year, there was a musical contest in the mill and more than 80 per cent of the workers took part. Over 50 new songs were composed for the occasion. Wang Chun-hsiang, a mechanic, spends most of his spare time writing plays. When the Marriage Law was being widely publicized, he wrote an one-act play based on a true story to help illustrate some of its points. The leader of the club activities is Chang Hsiu-lan, formerly a weaver. She is still only a youngster, but she has a hand in all the cultural activities in our mill. She produces stage shows and organizes athletic meets, and does them extremely well. We often call her "The Artist." I have the feeling that there are many artists-to-be in our mill. Yes, nothing is impossible.

Source of Our Happiness

We all know that happiness does not come out of nowhere. It is the reward of selfless



The new nursery of the Shanghai State-owned No. 1 Cotton Mill

labour. We know well that without the further development of production, without labour, there can be no happiness. That is why we know that our first task is to work hard for socialism.

We have considerable achievements in production. Formerly, a worker in the skinning room could tend only 600 spindles; today, after adopting the Ho Chien-hsiu method, some of them can tend as many as 800 spindles. In the past, the best weavers could only tend 8 looms; now they can tend 30 to 40.

The rise of labour productivity, however, does not mean that we have been "speeded up." Definitely not. On the contrary, our work is less strenuous than before. This is because we do not raise labour productivity by speeding up but by improving our working methods and tools.

Take Tu Ting-hsin, a woman worker in the spooling room. Formerly, her right hand was always idle until her left hand had finished its job; now she has learned to use both her hands

simultaneously on an operation. She has thus increased her efficiency and much time is saved. By adopting this new method of work, she managed in one shift to turn out 130 pounds of spool yarn, five pounds more than originally planned. Tu introduced her new method to her colleagues, and on the next day, Kao Yun-chu, another woman worker, set a new record by turning out 138 pounds of spool yarn. Others followed suit and also achieved excellent results. Tu Ting-hsin was recommended as an advanced worker and received a cash award from the mill.

But she didn't get dizzy with success. In April this year, she worked out two other new methods of work that resulted in a further rise in productivity.

Dear readers, what I have given you here is, I am afraid, only a very poor description of the life of our mill, and our mill is only one of the thousands in New China. But if this brief message has given you at least some idea of the happy life of the women workers in New China, then I am, indeed, glad.

What the Population Figures Of a Hsiang Tell

Chu Wei

WHEN I was in Lushan County, Honan Province, in February this year, I came across a copy of the census data recently gathered in Shenchuang Hsiang in this county. This census was part of the preparations for the recent election of local people's deputies.*

* Beginning in May 1953 China has conducted a nation-wide general election which is now nearing completion. During this period, a census of its population was also taken.

From these figures I prepared the following tables:

TABLE I
Children Under Four Years in Shenchuang Hsiang

Age	Number
4	42
3	65
2	80
1	93

These figures show the annual population increase in the Hsiang.

TABLE II
The Sex Ratio of the Population

Age	Male	Female
1	42	51
3	32	33
4	22	20
5-59	1273	1041

These figures show that there are more baby girls than boys of one year and under, and that the sexes are roughly balanced among the three and four year olds. There are more males than females five years of age and over.

What is the underlying cause of the steady population increase in Shenchuang *Hsiang*? Why are there almost equal numbers of boys and girls between two and four years of age while there are more girl babies among the infants under one year? And why are there more grown males than females from five upwards? The answer to these questions is that the victory of the people's revolution has freed the peasants from poverty and accorded women their proper status in the family and social life in general.

To fully understand what this means, we must look back at the wretched lives the women of Shenchuang *Hsiang* had to lead in the past.

Girls Were Unwanted

Lushan County is a poor mountainous region in western Honan Province. Under the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang regime when the toiling masses were ruthlessly oppressed and exploited, the women of this district, as elsewhere in China, were not treated as equal human beings. It was the husband's right to beat and exploit his wife. It was nothing unusual for women to be sold like chattels by their husbands. It was one of the worst of fates to be a child-bride. Owing to the poverty of their own families, such young girls were "brought up" in the homes of their betrotheds and were often little more than slaves. Some 70 per cent of the poor peasants' daughters led the miserable life of child-brides and nine out of ten of them died prematurely as a result of starvation and ill-treatment.

The terrible result of the old feudal idea of the inequality of women was that a baby girl was regarded as little short of a calamity.

A family with several daughters already was considered as being quite within the rules of propriety if it disposed of a new, unwanted girl baby either by drowning at birth or abandonment. The sufferings of Shih Hsiu-lien, an old woman of Yenhua Village of Shenchuang *Hsiang*, and her daughters were not unusual. At her first birth, she bore a son. All the members of her husband's family rejoiced; relatives living far away came to congratulate her and she was looked after with the utmost care. But unfortunately her baby died. The family mourned over its death and Hsiu-lien wept for days.

About a year later, Shih Hsiu-lien gave birth to her second baby. This time it was a girl and the attitude of the family turned against her. Her husband even threatened to do away with the child.

Unluckily, Hsiu-lien's next two babies were also girls, and her position in the family became steadily worse. She was scolded almost daily by her mother-in-law and was beaten and kicked by her husband on the least pretext. Rarely did a day pass without tears. She was not given the means to care for her babies when they fell ill; no skilled medical attention was allowed them. Her third baby girl died after a few months. She bore ten children in all, but six of them died prematurely.

Such cases were so numerous in the villages that they hardly caused comment. In the days of the Kuomintang, flood, drought and locust plagues were yearly occurrences; the people were ruthlessly plundered by the Kuomintang bandits and the landlords. A man might go through his whole life without a single day of happiness, without a full meal or adequate clothing. In years of famine or crop failures, the people would be forced to flee from their villages, and many of them died of starvation on the roadside. Under these conditions the women and children were the chief sufferers.

Still other hazards to the lives of the women and children of Shenchuang *Hsiang* were its poor sanitary conditions and the lack of proper maternity and child care. Only a few years ago childbirth was shadowed by ignorance and superstition handed down from the past. The old type of midwives knew

nothing of modern medical science. Difficult births were made even more dangerous for mothers and children by their ignorance. There was a high mortality rate among mothers in childbirth and new-born infants.

Equality for Women

After the liberation all this has been entirely changed: Women received equal shares of land with men during the land reform. The old attitude of contempt for women is now frowned upon by society. As a result of the various social reforms undertaken in New China and especially since the promulgation and implementation of the Marriage Law by the Central People's Government since 1950, a new attitude to women has been developed. Men are now often heard to say, "Women are second to us in nothing!" The village local government officials say: "We couldn't do our work properly without the help of the women." Even the old women have changed their feudal ideas. Those who formerly frowned upon the birth of daughters now say: "A girl or a boy—both are welcome! Women now have an equal share of land and they work as enthusiastically as men in production. It is as fine to bear a girl as a boy." Husbands and wives now work together, study together and consult each other on household problems. The new family rule is to respect the mother-in-law and to love the daughter-in-law. In Shenchuang *Hsiang* a democratic and harmonious atmosphere now prevails in almost every family.

Li Ming-hai of Shenchuang Village in the *Hsiang* had three daughters. In the autumn

of 1952, his wife bore him another. Instead of showing the least regret, Li loves his youngest daughter dearly. "Boys or girls, they are all my own children. When they grow up these girls can choose whatever work they want to do, just like boys."

Infant Mortality Sharply Reduced

The people's government of Lushan County, like those of all levels throughout New China, pays particular attention to the health of women and children. The county health organizations have trained many midwives to serve the various *hsiang*. Shenchuang *Hsiang* has three newly trained midwives. They not only use modern methods of delivery but also publicize basic medical knowledge about mother and child care. As a result of the improvements in health services for women and children, there has been a sharp decrease in infant mortality during the last two years.

During the busy season, creches are organized in all the villages of Shenchuang *Hsiang*. In this the mutual-aid teams and cooperatives have led the way. One of the best is the seasonal creche of the Chou Chunsheng Agricultural Producers' Cooperative. As a result, children rarely meet with those frequent accidents that used to occur when their mothers were busy at work in the fields and they were left to their own resources.

It is the victory of the people's revolution that has brought this happy life to the children and mothers of New China. They will never suffer what their parents endured in the past.



Paper-Making and Printing

—Two Great Contributions of the Chinese People to World Culture

Liu Kuo-chun

THE Chinese people have contributed not a few great discoveries and inventions to the world's cultural heritage. Silk, the compass, gun-powder, were all first invented in China. Chinese scholars made great contributions in the sphere of agriculture, water conservancy, architecture, astronomy, mathematics and other sciences and skills.

Two of their greatest contributions were the inventions of paper and printing. The art of paper-making spread from China in the middle of the 8th century to Samarkand and in the middle of the 12th through Bagdad, Egypt and Morocco—to Spain. The art of printing came from China to Europe in the 13th-14th centuries. Many European travellers, among whom Marco Polo was perhaps the best known, had come to China and subsequently introduced Chinese culture to the West. The first books printed in Europe from engraved blocks at the end of the 14th century show that the paper, printing ink and method of printing employed were practically identical with those used in China.

The knowledge of making paper and printing came to various Asian countries from China at a much earlier date because of their geographic proximity and the close relations that existed between them through the ages. Paper-making was introduced into Korea in the 4th century A.D. and into Japan in the 7th century. Printing was first introduced to Korea in the 9th century. In Japan printing from engraved wood blocks was used in the latter part of the 11th century. Paper-

making and printing also came to Indo-China from China at a very early date.

In ancient times, before the invention of paper, the Chinese used metal styluses to scratch characters on tortoise shells, bones of animals, bronze and stone vessels, and jade slabs.



The earliest extant example of printing in China. A portrait of Buddha and text engraved and printed in the early 10th century

The author is the professor of Library Science of Peking University.

Such inscribed oracles or historical records have been found dating back to 3,000 years ago in the Shang Dynasty and earlier. Later, they began to use lacquer made from black resinous materials for writing on strips of bamboo or wood which could hold from 8 to 40 characters. The sets of strips were bound together with string. It can be easily seen that "books" or official "documents" made in this manner were very inconvenient for reading and carrying around.

Silk was also used at this time for writing on. This was more convenient than bamboo or wood boards but was a great deal more expensive than the latter and therefore was used only for exceptional purposes, usually in the form of scrolls.

The First Paper

The earliest reference to paper in Chinese annals occurs in 12 B.C., in the dynastic history of the Han times, almost two thousand years ago. Here it is mentioned that paper was made by women mashing the waste from silk worm cocoons and then spreading and drying the pulp so formed into thin sheets used for wrapping delicate things and for writing on at the imperial court. From the middle of the 1st century onwards, there was an increasing demand for this kind of paper for imperial consumption. But as the raw material was scarce

and expensive, the amount made was limited. The cumbersome bamboo or wooden writing boards were still mainly used. At this time, of course, the use of books, silk scrolls, etc., was restricted to the imperial court and the rich nobility.

The exact date of the first making of paper is not known, but in 105 A.D., during the Han Dynasty, Tsai Lun, a high court official who had to deal with supplies for the imperial court, invented a paper made from a pulp of bark, hemp fibre, rags and old fish-nets. This paper was highly prized in his time. By utilizing such cheap raw materials for his paper-making, Tsai Lun made it possible to produce paper on a large scale. From this time on the handicraft production of paper began to develop rapidly in China and its quality was steadily improved.

A little later in the same century, paper became the main material for writing on, replacing bamboo and wood strips and silk materials.

By the middle of the 6th century, paper makers had already mastered the art of making papers of various colours. The literati of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) liked to write their poems on albums or scrolls made of different coloured papers. Methods for the protection of paper were also devised; one method that became popular in the 6th century was to use the

sap of a certain kind of plant to impregnate paper to protect it from worms.

The mass production of cheap paper naturally led to the increased publication of books. They were usually in the form of scrolls of a few to several feet in length made by pasting paper sheets of similar sizes end to end. At each end the paper is attached to a bamboo or



Four volumes of the work of the philosopher Chu Hsi printed from wood blocks in the 13th century during the Sung Dynasty



The college library

Students doing practical work in the machine shop of the Mechanical Engineering Department

Young Engineers in Training

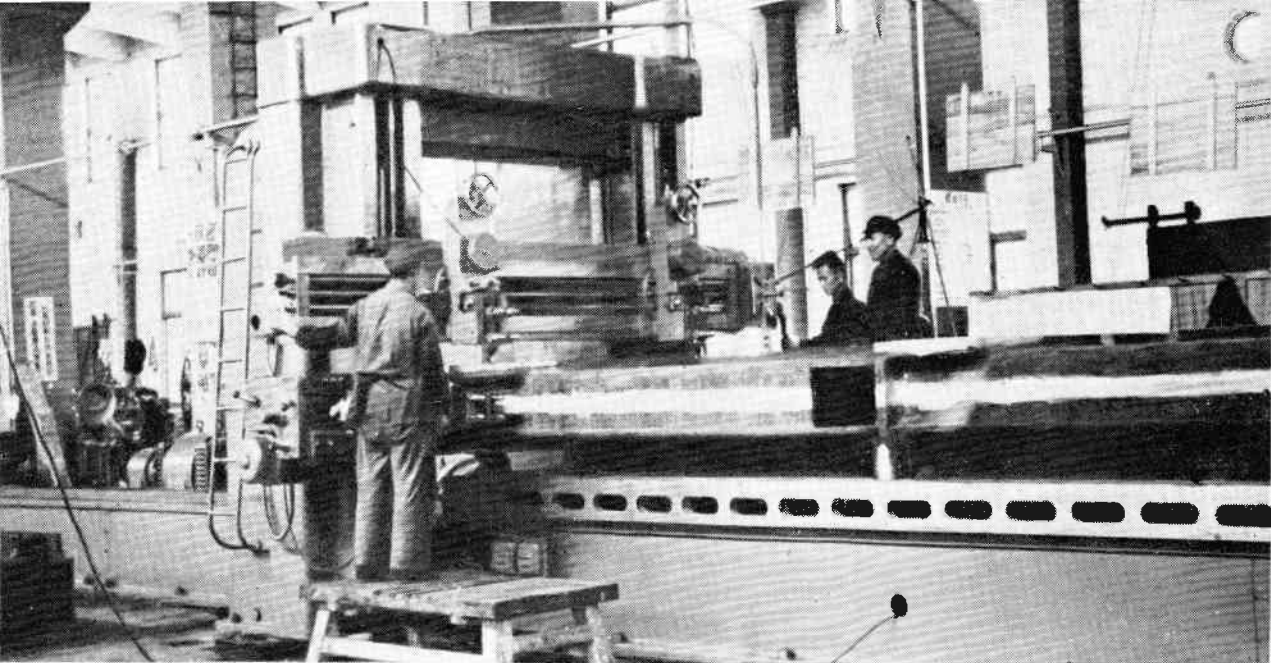
At the new South China Engineering College in Canton, the biggest centre for advanced engineering training in South China



Students making bicycle tires in the Chemical Engineering Department's workshop

A professor explains key points in Chinese architecture to students of the Department of Architecture





A Soviet-type 9-metre planer made in the Tsinan No. 2 Machine-Building Works, Shantung Province

China's New Machine Building Industry Forges Ahead

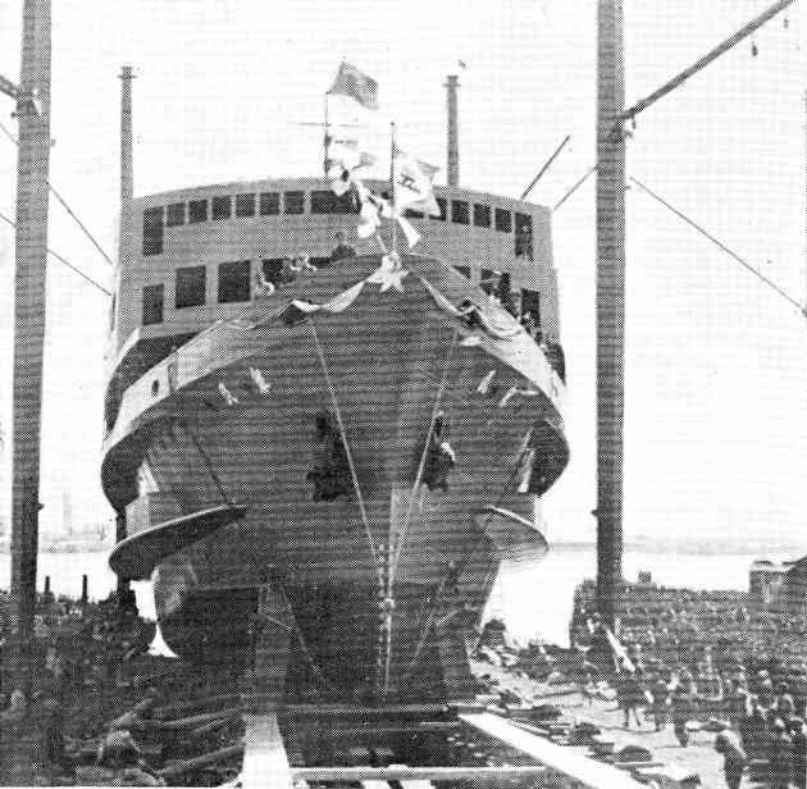
Old China never had an independent machine-building industry. Liberated China has in a short time created a rapidly developing machine-building industry of her own. It is providing her national economy with a constantly increasing range of high-quality products



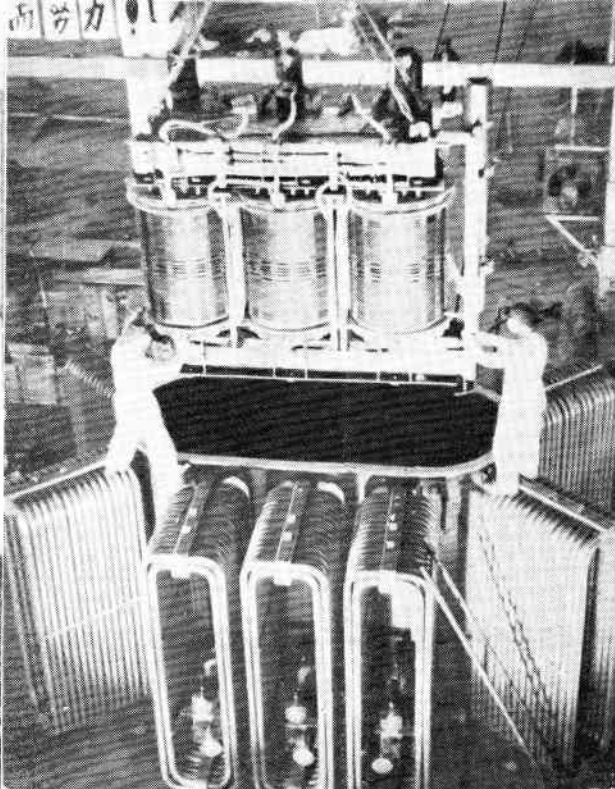
The Min (first passenger car) ever built in China. Launched at the Kianghai yards on 1954, it plies the route on the Hai-Chun

A universal grinding machine at the 1953 exhibition in Shanghai's engineering industry





Yangtze, the largest steamship in China, was launched in Shanghai on March 20, 1957. The Yangtze is the first Chinese-made steamship to run

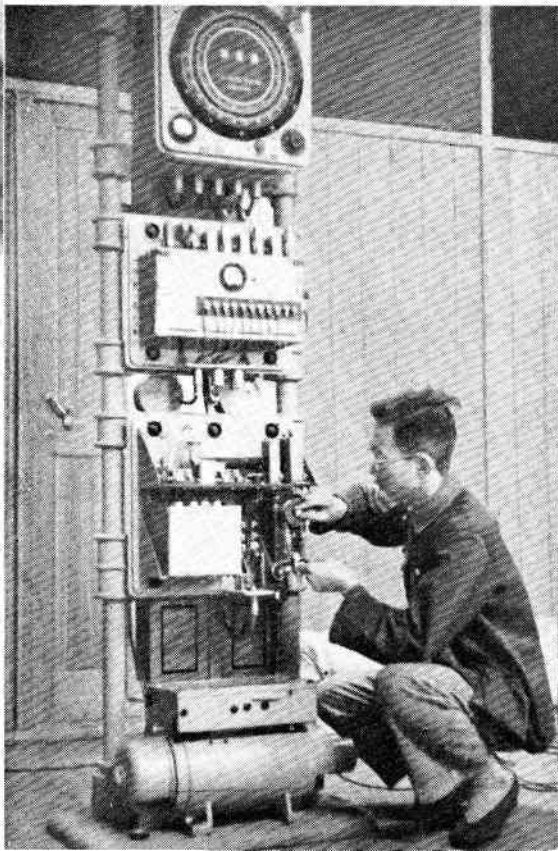


Assembling transformers in the Shenyang Transformer Works. Experimental production of transformers of more than 20,000 kilovolt-amperes will begin this year



Making a final check on the first Chinese-made depth-sounder for use in rivers and the open sea

preparing the design of engineering



Inventions and innovations by the workers have played a big role in advancing the machine-building industry. Helped by model worker Wang Chung-lun (centre), Tsui Chunshan (left), a worker at Anshan's general machine-building plant, has made seven improvements to tools and overfulfilled his production quota



Construction of China's first automobile plant is now in full swing in the Northeast



The Hospital's main facade

Peking's Soviet Red Cross Hospital

The Soviet Red Cross Hospital, established in Peking in June 1952, moved into its new building in February this year. The Soviet staff not only treats patients but also train Chinese medical personnel in the theory and practice of Soviet medicine



A patients' rest room

School children having their lungs examined with the fluorograph, one of the latest productions of Soviet medical technique



A typical ward



wooden roller on which the scroll can be rolled up as it is read.

These books—of official documents and histories, poems, treatises on astronomy, medicine, philosophy, etc.—were copied out by professional copyists. Although this copying on paper was much easier to do than on bamboo or wooden boards and silk, it still consumed much time and manpower and was very expensive. Such books existed in only a few copies and had only a very limited circulation.

Invention of Printing

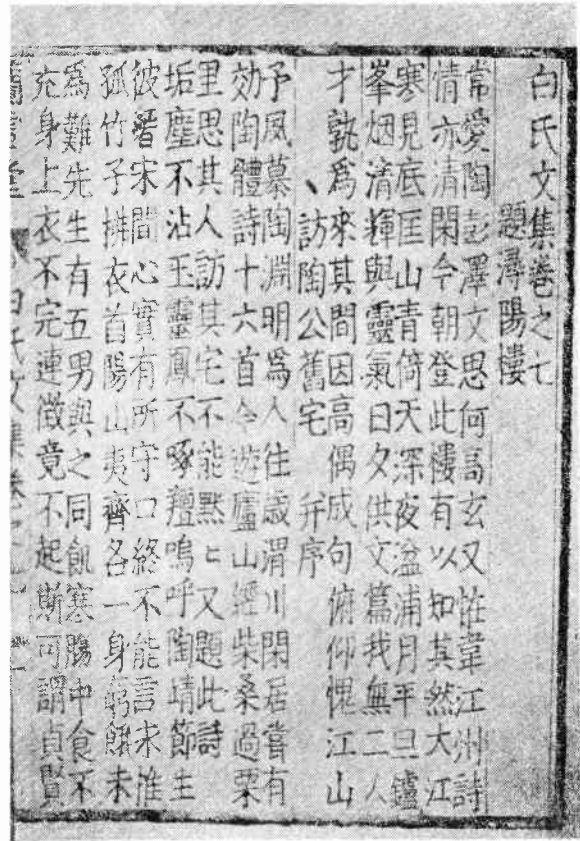
This situation existed until the appearance of printing, which was invented in China at the beginning of the 7th century and which opened a new page in the history of the development of Chinese culture.

The earliest kind of printing was done from a whole block of wood on which the characters or illustrations were carved in reverse. Printing ink was then applied to the raised parts of the block. A piece of paper was then pressed on it and rubbed with a brush to make a print. It is similar to the taking of rubbings from stone carvings—a practice which was already known.

Such block printing, which further drastically reduced the cost of books, was widely practised in China during the 9th century. A considerable number of the classics, almanacs, dictionaries, textbooks for study and religious texts (both Taoist and Buddhist) and other popular books were printed and circulated.

Poems of the great poet of the Tang Dynasty, Pai Chu-I, were printed in this way. His verses were written in an easily comprehensible style, and in most cases took the people's life as their theme. They were very popular among the working people. Printed copies of his poems were sold in the market place and even exchanged, so it is written, for tea and wine. This indicates how widely printing was developed at that time. However, the imperial court at that time still favoured the more expensive and finer method of hand copying.

Printing continued to develop and spread in China in the first half of the 10th century and flourished particularly in Kaifeng and



A page of the works of the great poet Pai Chu-I of the Tang Dynasty printed about 1516 with movable brass type in the Ming Dynasty

Chengtu, two of the leading cultural centres of the time. It was used on a wide scale for the publication of books.

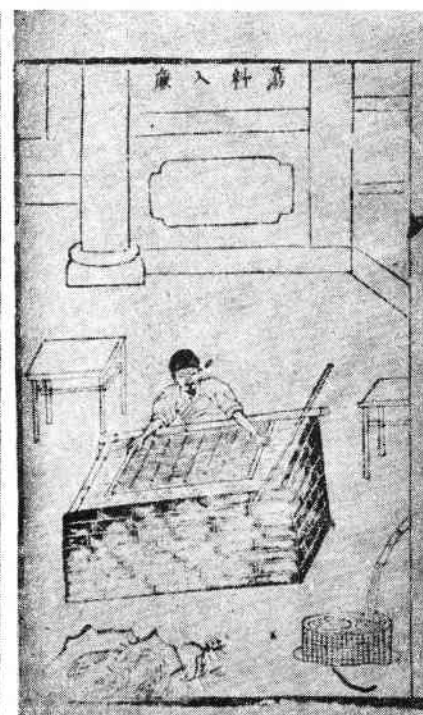
The Sung Dynasty (960-1279) was the golden age of Chinese block printing. Great progress was made in the technique of engraving, the production of paper and inks, book design and binding. The four great printing centres of the Sung Dynasty were Kaifeng (Honan Province), Hangchow (Chekiang), Meishan (Szechuan) and Chienyang (Fukien), which was also the centre of the paper-making industry. There were bookstores in many cities with great numbers of books on classical philosophy, history, medicine, mathematics, poetry and prose and the Buddhist canon. How developed publishing was at that time can be seen from the fact that the imperial library had a collection of 74,000 volumes, while one private



Cutting and washing bamboo slips



Boiling the bamboo with water to make pulp



Filling shallow bamboo screen paper moulds with pulp

Woodcuts Depicting the Ancient Process of Paper-Making, Published About 1641 in the Ming Dynasty

collector could boast of a collection of over 100,000 volumes.

Invention of Movable Type

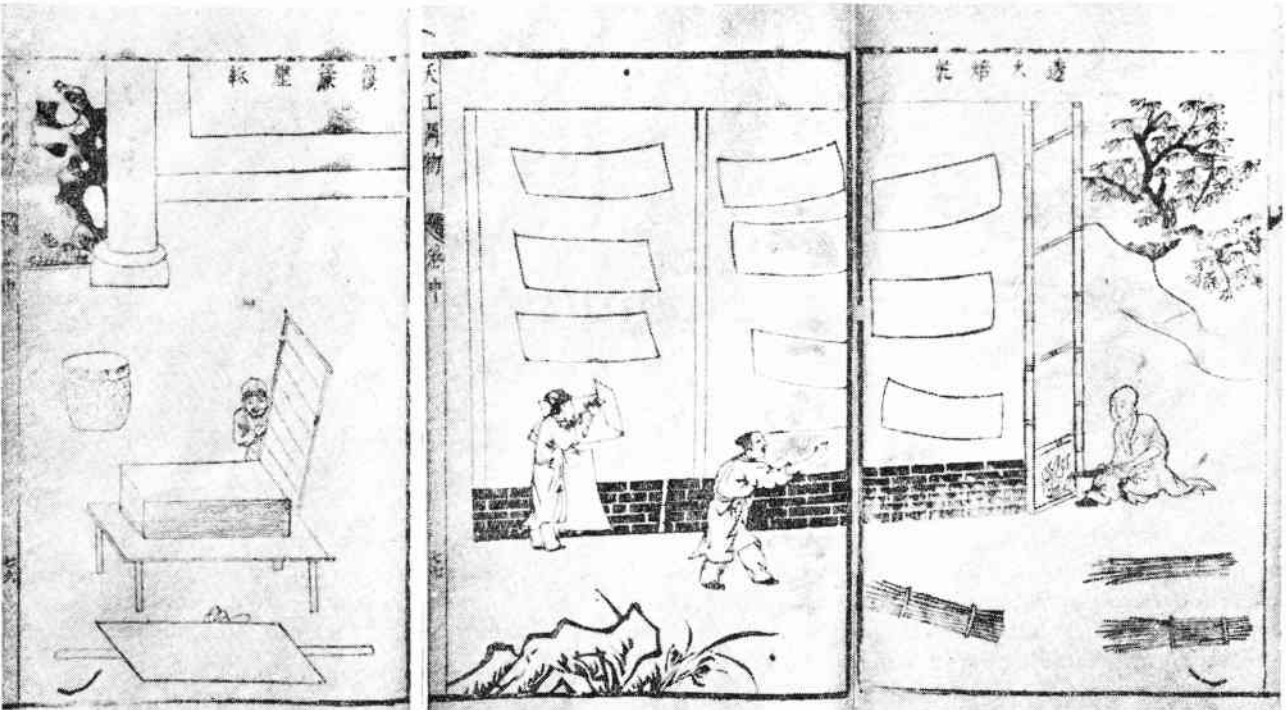
Although block printing is much more efficient than copying by hand, every page of a book requires a separate wood block, and once the book is printed they all become useless. This kind of printing still consumes a great deal of time and labour and is therefore relatively expensive. There was a growing demand for books and a more economical method of printing. Block printing was finally discarded for a new method—printing with movable types.

Movable-type printing was invented by a certain Pi Sheng in the middle of the 11th century. This is recorded in detail in the book *Meng Chi Pi Tan* written by his contemporary and friend, Shen Kwa. Pi Sheng moulded

movable types out of clay, set them firmly into metal trays and made prints from them as from a wooden block. The clay type faces could be used over and over again for other works until they wore out. With this great invention, China launched the art of printing in the modern meaning of the word. It is generally known that printing with movable types was first done in Europe in the middle of the 15th century, or four hundred years later than its invention in China.

Wang Chen, an official and specialist in agriculture of the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), was an illustrious successor to Pi Sheng. In 1314, he perfected movable types made of wood which were more durable and less susceptible to damage than clay ones; they were lighter and easier to carry. To speed up type-setting, Wang Chen invented a round type case which the compositor can rotate as he seeks for the required type.

Between the 13th and 16th centuries, types made of tin, lead and copper successively appeared. Among the many great literary works



Pressing the damp paper with a bamboo screen

Drying the paper over an oven

published by this method was the *Ku Chin Tu Shu Chi Cheng* ("The Grand Concordance of Ancient and Modern Books"). Printed with movable copper type in 1722, it appeared in 5,020 volumes—the greatest encyclopaedia in China.

Another outstanding achievement during this period was the invention of colour printing. The earliest extant example of colour printing was the *Chin Kang Ching Chu* (or "Commentary on the Diamond Sutra") printed in 1340 in two colours, black and red. This was 117 years earlier than the first book printed in colour in Europe. During the 16th and 17th centuries, books in two, four and even five colours were published by the method of colour wood block printing in Wuhsing, Chekiang Province, the centre of colour printing at that time.

This method was used to make coloured illustrations to literary works, novels and dramas popular among the people. At first, colour printing was done with a single wood block on whose parts several colours would be applied. Later, the various parts of the print

showing different colours were engraved separately on separate blocks. These were then covered with ink of the appropriate colour and the prints of the various colours made on a single sheet to produce a facsimile of the original. This was a further step forward in colour printing. By this means, reproductions of great faithfulness to the original could be made. The *Shih Chu Chai Hua Pu*, a series of coloured reproductions of old masters, was printed by the artist Hu Cheng-yen in the 17th century by this method, and this edition has become one of the treasured masterpieces of the art of Chinese printing.

Paper-making and printing were two remarkable achievements of the Chinese people. In both cases, however, the limitations inherent in the old society prevented further technological development and broader cultural and social use being made of them. Today in New China, the people, adapting the advanced experience of world technology, have set about carrying forward these two great inventions to their full use and development in the service of the people.

Peking's Soviet Red Cross Hospital

Sun Yen-ching

I HAVE been working together with many Soviet doctors in the Soviet Red Cross Hospital of Peking for the last two years. This hospital, a precious gift from the Soviet people to China, was established in June 1952 under the sponsorship of the Soviet Red Cross Society and the Red Crescent Federation, which provides all the medical supplies and equipment. Since its inauguration, approximately 30,000 Chinese patients have received treatment here.

In February 1954 the hospital moved to its new home in the southern part of Peking.

This is a large, beautiful building on the ground floor of which is a spacious, modern and comfortable patients' waiting room artistically furnished and decorated with all kinds of potted flowers and plants. While the patients wait for their turn, they relax on comfortable leather sofas. They can read books or magazines, or, if they wish, listen to lectures on hygiene.

The new hospital building is shaped somewhat like a capital "E" with its three prongs towards the front. The wards are on the long and continuous side of the building which faces south, so that they can get plenty of sunlight. The sections housing the different departments of the hospital are all constructed to fit their special needs. They include rooms for peat treatments, paraffin bath treatments and hydrotherapy. The X-ray therapy room has massive ferro-concrete walls reinforced with thick lead plates, so as to prevent the X-rays

from leaking and to protect the health of the workers. The specially constructed sleep treatment room is entirely sound-proof, ensuring that the patients enjoy sound, undisturbed sleep.

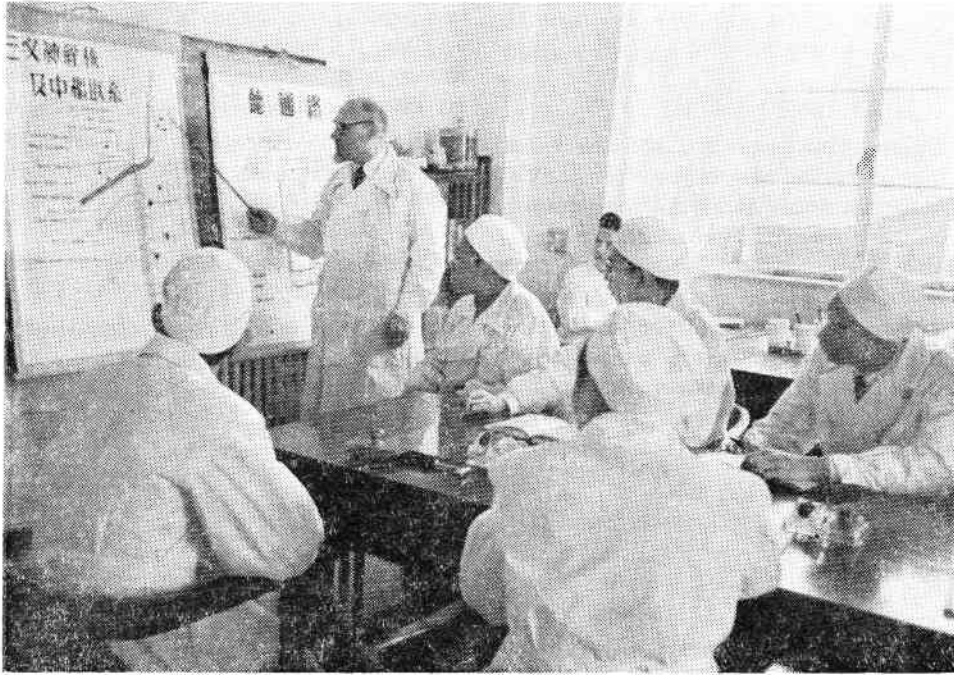
The ambulant patients in each department have their own dining room and lounge supplied with chess, pictorials, magazines, etc. The hospital also has a library and a club room especially for the patients.

Newest-type Treatment

Every detail of the arrangement of the hospital reflects great care and consideration for the patients' welfare and convenience. Spotless cleanliness and extreme quiet characterize the whole institution. It is clear that nothing has been left undone to make the patients happy and comfortable.

The fifty or so Soviet medical personnel in the hospital daily give the Chinese people the benefit of the most advanced medical knowledge and technique. Working side by side with them, I have come to understand, through actual experience, the superiority of the Pavlov theory which furnishes a key to the treatment of many intractable diseases. The Soviet doctors frequently say: "It is persons with diseases, not diseases in isolation, that we must deal with. The idea of totality is therefore very important."

In the past, for example, tuberculosis of the skin was almost invariably made the sub-



V. I. Stepin, Head of the Department of Cranial Nerves at the Soviet Red Cross Hospital in Peking, giving a lecture to Chinese doctors and nurses on the teachings of I. P. Pavlov

ject of local treatment. Pavlovian theory, however, has proved that this disease is closely connected with the activity of the higher nervous system and is only a part of a disorder affecting the entire human body. Effective treatment of the disease should therefore be total and not merely local. Wang Hsien-chang, a skin T. B. patient, had formerly been treated in a certain foreign hospital and had his leg amputated. This, however, did not rid him entirely of the disease, which recently reappeared on his face. This time he was treated by the Soviet dermatologist Yegorov, who strongly denounced the mechanical materialism of Virchow's cellular pathology, on which the error of seeing diseases in isolation and giving them only local treatment is based. Wang Hsien-chang is now being given a new type of treatment according to the principles of I. P. Pavlov and is already improving.

Surgical Principles

"The technical competence of a surgeon is not measured by his ability to cut some parts off the human body but by his ability to preserve. It is measured by his ability to pre-

serve the individual's organism and ability to live and work." Such is the credo of the hospital with regard to surgery. As a surgeon, I am highly impressed and have learned a great deal by the way I have seen this principle applied here.

Pa Heng-shan, a young cadre, came to us suffering from gangrene of the toes as a result of thrombophlebitis. He was in unbearable pain. His disease had been repeatedly treated by doctors without success. Under ordinary circumstances he would certainly have had to undergo amputation of the leg, perhaps as high as the thigh. But when Dr. Tumansky and I were diagnosing the patient, the Soviet surgeon told me: "Let us try by every means to preserve this young man's ability to live and work normally." We examined him very thoroughly and discovered that the pulse behind his ankles was functioning normally. So we decided on a Pirogov operation. After it, with the aid of special shoes, he was able to walk around as usual. When he came back to hospital some time after discharge to tender us his thanks, we were

overwhelmed with joy to see him going about like a perfectly normal person.

High Responsibility

The high spirit of responsibility and warm love for the patients shown by the Soviet doctors have been a noble and inspiring example to me and others. I shall never forget the many wonderful things I have seen them do. A year ago, shortly after I came to the hospital, we got a patient transferred from another institution. He was more than 60 years old and had pus in the chest. He had a high fever and breathed with difficulty. We saw that his case was critical and that he might die at any moment.

Professor Voskriesensky, head of the Department of Surgery, decided on an immediate operation and entrusted me with the task. Before I began, the Soviet doctors asked me to tell them what procedure I planned. Then they made a study of all conceivable accidents and how they should be met. The outcome of the operation was entirely satisfactory, and the patient recovered.

Throughout my association with the Soviet doctors, I have seen how, wherever they go, they bring hope and comfort to patients. The friendly pleasantness of their talk, their great care and caution in diagnosis, all serve to create an indelible impression on the minds of the patients.

Here is an example. Jen Kun was an orphan. She contracted tuberculosis while in the custody of an orphanage before liberation. Some time ago, she was sent to our hospital for treatment. Dr. Vinogradov, head of the Department of General Medicine, took charge of her. He frequently chatted with her, told her stories and bought her sweets. It was obvious that he was using every means to bathe her little heart in sunshine and warmth. Jen Kun soon recovered. Ever since then, she has called the old doctor "father."

Training Chinese Doctors

Aside from taking care of their patients, the Soviet doctors in this hospital devote much time

and energy to the training of Chinese medical workers. Systematic lectures on Pavlov's theory and various special medical subjects are frequently given in the hospital's spacious auditorium. They are open to the medical personnel not only of our own hospital but of other hospitals as well. Originally they were given by Soviet doctors alone, but now, with the help of Soviet doctors, many Chinese doctors are lecturing on the new methods too.

The Soviet doctors frequently say to us: "Doctors are scientists. If they do not do scientific research, they will be unable to carry on their work. This is especially important to China in the course of large-scale economic construction." For this reason, reports on special topics are given in every department every week. They include systematic expositions of methods of treatment of various diseases.

The hospital now has more than two hundred Chinese interns working and living alongside the Soviet doctors. We learn valuable medical knowledge from them and the attitude of warm love for the patients. Not a moment of our time here is wasted. On the eve of his departure for the Soviet Union, Dr. Tumansky said to us: "It was my greatest privilege during the last two years to know how diligent and hard-working are the young medical workers of China."

I myself came to work in this hospital shortly after my graduation. During my two years here I have performed many operations, both minor and major ones, including splenectomies (excision of the spleen), gastroenterectomies (excision of stomach and intestine) and repair of hernia. My experience with regard to operative technique has been greatly enriched. Of still greater importance is the fact that I have learned to know clearly what qualities the physicians of New China should possess.

In conclusion I would like to point out that the Soviet Red Cross Hospital of Peking is not only an up-to-date hospital but also a centre for the diffusion of advanced medical knowledge and the spirit of internationalism.

A Friendly Meeting

Chen Chih-chuan

On his way back to Japan after attending the conference of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Students in Vienna, Tokuo Matsuomoto, Vice-Chairman of the National Federation of Students' Self-Government Associations of Japan, visited China early this year on the invitation of the All-China Students' Federation. He was warmly welcomed at many meetings with students in Peking, Shanghai, Hangchow and Canton. The following description of Matsuomoto's visit to Peking University is by a student of that university.

ON SUNDAY, March 7, spring was in the air of Peking. The sky had just cleared after a flurry of snow. The sun shone on the snow-covered roofs. The ice on the pond of the university campus had melted. A flock of white doves wheeled in the sky.

All of us students of the Japanese Language Department and representatives from the other departments crowded around the university entrance to meet Tokuo Matsuomoto.

This was a long-awaited, extra-special occasion. China and Japan are close neighbours but this was actually the first time that our university had ever welcomed a Japanese student leader as its guest. We all follow events in the life of Japan's students with keen interest. We know the valiant part they are playing in the battle for peace and democracy, but this was the first opportunity we have had of getting a first hand account of events from one so well qualified to tell us.

We also wanted to let the Japanese students know something about our own life and work since liberation.

When our guest arrived, we gave him a big ovation. Our chorus sang "The Hearts of the World's People Beat as One":

*The red flag waves on,
The whole world marches forward to its
goal:
People's democracy! A lasting peace!
The hearts of the world's people beat as
one!*

Singing together we led him to the assembly hall.

The chairman of our students' association welcomed Tokuo Matsuomoto on behalf of all of us. He, in return, thanked us for our welcome. He brought us a message of goodwill from the Japanese students and their thanks for the help Chinese students had given them last year when we sent funds to aid those Japanese students who were unable to continue their studies because of financial difficulties. He said: "My visit to China has given me a deeper understanding of the truly friendly feelings the Chinese students have for us Japanese students."

He was very eager to hear about our student life today and our experiences in the past struggle for liberation. We had a lively, informal chat.

Chinese Student Life

Chiang Sung, a Northeasterner, was the first to speak. His is no unusual story today. He related how he had come to Pei Ta (Peking University), from a peasant family. "Our part of the country was liberated in 1947," he said. "Soon after, the land reform was carried out, and this brought general prosperity to our village. I hadn't had much education before, but I was sent by the People's Government to a short-term middle school especially set up to teach grown-up workers and peasants. The government looked after me in every way, and all my expenses were paid for. During my three years of study there, I was able to raise

the level of my knowledge which was only up to that of a primary school pupil to the standard of a senior middle school student. Last year I graduated and was enrolled in the Japanese Language Department here at Pei Ta. I'm well provided for here and conditions are improving all the time. I can devote myself whole-heartedly to my studies and get well prepared to do my share in national construction and help to promote friendship and cooperation between China and Japan."

There was no lack of speakers. Everyone wanted to send their message to Japan! Other students spoke about our life and studies. They described how the university has improved conditions for our work and living. The library and laboratories have been enlarged. We have a big new gymnasium and various kinds of new sports equipment. Our students' association has helped organize groups for drama, singing, poetry, photography and other activities. During the summer holidays, the university organizes excursions to famous resorts like Tsingtao, Peitaiho or Dairen.

How could we tell our friend all that we wanted to say in so few minutes? He was writing as fast as he could in his notebook. We told him that none of us need worry about our future jobs. Our country needs thousands upon thousands of people for socialist industrialization and there's work enough for all.

Many students expressed their sympathy and support for the Japanese students in their struggle against the American imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries. When the All-China Students' Federation called on us last year to help our Japanese friends with funds, many of our classmates even donated their engagement rings and presents their parents had sent them.

The talk got on to Japanese culture. We have a deep appreciation in our Japanese department for the creative art and literature of the Japanese people. Through *Akahata* and other Japanese journals, we keep in touch with cultural events there. We have read the fine novels *Calm Mountains* and the *Struggle over Hakone Water* with deep interest. We told him how we have learned to stage Japanese plays and sing Japanese songs and ballads in our choral group. There are few of us who

don't know how to sing and dance the "*Kisonohe*." We have also organized a correspondence group to keep up a regular contact with Japanese students and often exchange presents with them. We said how much we hoped to see other Japanese students visit us. Such visits would help develop understanding between our peoples and hindrances should certainly not be placed in their way. We get a great inspiration from the many visits to Pei Ta of other friends from abroad. Students, cultural groups, peace partisans have come to us from a dozen countries.

Japanese Students Today

Tokuo Matsuomoto gladly complied with our request to tell us something about the life of Japanese students. He told us of the trying conditions with which they have to contend. "Economic difficulties force many students to do odd jobs to pay for their education. Even then many of them cannot manage and are forced to abandon their studies. What's worse, many of their fundamental political rights have been curtailed and there is a real danger that they will again be subjected to conscription into the militarist army." He told us how many students and professors are taking an active part in the struggle of the people against the American attempt to turn Uchinada Village and Mt. Asama into military tramping grounds as part of the U.S. policy for the colonization of Japan.

"The defence of their democratic rights is now more important to the Japanese students than even their school work. That is why we Japanese students are taking a particularly active part in the peace movement. The Japanese student movement is determined to learn from the experience of the Chinese students in their struggle for freedom after the May Fourth Movement," he concluded.

When he had finished speaking we were silent for a moment. We thought how similar are the sufferings of the Japanese students to those experienced by the Chinese students in the past. At the moment, our exhibition hall has on display a collection of historical documents relating to the history of Peking University. They show how, ever since May Fourth, 1919, Pei Ta students have stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of the entire

nation in the struggle for national independence, freedom and people's democracy. They fought staunchly and victory came at last. The thought of our victory and what it has brought quickly dispelled the silence.

We presented gifts to Tokuo Matsumoto amid rousing applause and the flash-lights of the photographers. They included books, magazines, pictures, letters to the Japanese students and a grand banner, which bore the word "peace" in Japanese characters made up of scores of badges either decorated with the portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung or the peace dove. It symbolized that peace is what our two peoples long for.

The accordionist then struck up a new song and we quickly caught it up, singing "The Voice

of Peace" and then the "March of the World's Democratic Youth." We pressed Tokuo Matsumoto to sing and he rendered the "Song of Youth." He had to sing three encores!

Out on the lawn we spent the short time before his departure with a dance led by the girls. Unaccustomed though he was to our dancing, he couldn't resist a try on such an auspicious occasion and soon he was dancing a new dance which we call "Doubles."

It was time to go. We shook hands with him. We cheered him and carried him shoulder high to his car. Reluctant to part with him, we followed for some distance the slowly moving car, waving our caps amid our parting song: "Comrades unite! Stand shoulder to shoulder through thick and thin...!"

U.S. and British Ex-P.O.W's In China

Lin Wu-sun

Twenty-two soldiers of the "U.N." Command in Korea, 21 Americans and one Briton, who were among the prisoners of war captured by the Korean and Chinese people's forces during the Korean hostilities, decided not to return to their own countries after the armistice. In a statement to the world press in Panmunjom in January this year, they said:

"Why are we not going home? We know from our experience what is going on. . . . In America, the witch-hunt, McCarthyism, the fate of Dickenson and Batchelor, the Valley Forge mental home and those who are Negroes—lynch law and colour bar. Anyone who breathes the word peace in America now becomes at once a 'Communist' and an outlaw. In Britain, American occupation, drafted to fight an American war in Korea! And next, in Indo-China? in Pakistan? . . . We believe our greatest task is to keep the peace and win democracy for our peoples. But if we return, our voices would be silenced."

In February they came to China and have since then been given every assistance by the Chinese Red Cross Society in their return to peaceful civilian life.

What are these young men like? How are they getting along in China and what are their impressions of it? Believing that the answers to these questions are of interest to our readers, we sent a correspondent to see them when they arrived in Peking to see the capital during the May Day festival. Here is his report.

THEY were happy and cheerful. Dressed in "civvies" and talking and joking in an easy manner, they impressed me as alert, intelligent and high-spirited.

"What do you think of your experiences in China so far?" I asked them. They told me they have been doing a lot of travelling and seeing various aspects of China. In the

short period of two months, they have covered a number of cities and have visited factories, schools, historical monuments and scenic spots.

Their impressions of New China, as they told them to me, were many and varied. Some were struck by the large numbers of modern buildings; others remarked on the fact that—soon after the long years of civil war—everyone they saw in China was adequately clothed; still others were impressed by the plentiful food and consumers' goods in the shops.

The factories they have visited proved a favourite subject. Several had worked in factories in the United States before they were sent to fight in Korea. James Veneries of Hawthorne, California, a former steel worker, noted the large number of safety devices in the machine-tool factory he saw. Richard Corden of Providence, Rhode Island, who had been a welder in a shipyard, said, "Conditions in the factories I have seen here have surprised me. Everything is clean and orderly and ventilation and lighting are good."

The adequate housing, medical services and sports facilities for the workers were much discussed. All stressed the fact of the workers' happiness and that there were no foremen or gang bosses to drive them and shout orders. Larance Sullivan, a Negro whose home is in



U.S. and British ex-P.O.W's admire a brass jar of the Ching Dynasty at Peking's famous Summer Palace

Omaha, Nebraska, remarked: "When we talked to the workers, they told us about their happy life and the innovations and improvements they have made. In a paper factory we visited, we saw a huge ventilation system. The workers told us the suggestion came from them."

Their Deepest Impression

But it is the people of New China that made the deepest impression on these men. Nearly all mentioned this repeatedly.

Albert Belhomme, who is Belgian by origin and lived under Hitlerite occupation before he emigrated to the United States in 1946, told about the hospitality of the Chinese people. "The Chinese Red Cross," he said, "takes good care of us. All the necessities and food we were accustomed to from our past life have been provided. But I am most impressed by what I would call the human relationships in New China. I have travelled a lot in Western Europe and the United States, but nowhere have I been received with such warmth and affection. To me, this is a lesson of democracy in practice."

Sullivan spoke of the feeling of solidarity he noticed among the Chinese people. "Here you sense the feeling of unity of purpose and comradeship everywhere you go. When I go out shopping, everyone tries to help me, so the language of signs and smiles works fine. Or take another case. We played basketball with Chinese teams, and every time they would get down with us to comment on each others' play so next time we can improve our game. Here you never have that feeling of being alone and always fighting for survival."

The Britisher, Condron, stressed the confidence he found among the Chinese people. He said, "You find quiet confidence on the faces of the people wherever you go. You find it also in the construction of factories, schools, hospitals and homes. The people here certainly have no fear of the future."

A Full Programme

Their programme in Peking was a full one. Days were spent picnicking in the beautiful Summer Palace, seeing the Temple of Heaven and shopping and sightseeing. In the evenings, they saw something of the rich and varied cultural life for which Peking is famous.



U.S. and British ex-P.O.W's visiting the physics laboratory at Peking University

They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Peking University, where they spent an afternoon. Strolling around its beautiful campus, they were accompanied by students who showed them their dormitories, classrooms, library and laboratories and told them what student life is like in China. Many of the Americans told me afterwards that they were impressed by the cooperative spirit and strong sense of purpose of the students, quite a number of whom, they found, came from worker and peasant families.

May 4th, the youth day of China, was spent with young workers and students in the famous Winter Palace. Corden later told me, "It was a most memorable afternoon. How all the people sang and danced! I have never seen anything like it. And they clapped when we walked by. I've seldom been so moved and excited."

What Makes Peking so Different

But their biggest moment in Peking was at the May Day festival, when they watched the parade before Tien An Men. Condron, the Britisher, said, "During the past few days, I have often asked myself what makes Peking so different from so many other cities I have seen before coming to China. It was not until I saw the gay and colourful May Day celebrations that the answer hit me—it was the people! I have never in my life seen a people so bursting with

enthusiasm, so full of life as the workers, peasants, students and children who marched past Tien An Men and danced there under the magnificent fireworks in the evening. To see Peking on May Day makes me understand better the meaning of the word—people."

To this, Sullivan added, "I was particularly moved to see the national minorities there in the parade. I felt I understand their happiness and sense of freedom. How happy some of our people back home would be if they had in America what I saw here."

"Do you write home and tell them?" I asked. The reply was that they wrote and received many letters. Condron,

who is from Scotland, had the exciting experience while in Peking of talking to a number of his countrymen—delegates of the Scottish Miners' Union who had come for the May Day celebrations. One of the delegates, as it happened, knew his family.

Plans for the Future

These men were confident about their future. When I asked them about their plans, Corden replied, "You know it is quite different from home. At home, a man of my age would be worrying a great deal about what he is going to do. He is worried about finding a job, and when he has one, he wonders how long he can keep it. Here there are plenty of jobs because there is an unlimited amount of work to be done. So I am not concerned about the future. In fact, at the moment, I am thinking mostly of how to know China better so that when I do go to work, I'll be able to do a good job."

Sullivan seemed to feel the same. "We have no fear of settling down," he said. "All types of work are open to us. But right now, I want to use to full advantage the opportunity to travel around and get acquainted with Chinese life, to know the language, the history and the customs. As to looking further into the future, I'll be back among my own people in a peaceful America."

"How Can I Ever Repay?"

R. A. Cocks

Ronald Cocks was a soldier of the British contingent of the "United Nations" Command in Korea who spent some time as a prisoner of war of the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army, and was later repatriated. He wrote the following message to "People's China" from his home in England on March 1, 1954.

For three years I lived in a country 15,000 miles from my home. For three years I was among people who lived under a different system of government from the one to which I was accustomed; people who, I had been told, were slaves of a terror-ridden police state.

For nearly three years I discovered and enjoyed a new way of life and, I realize now, I found happiness. For nearly three years I was a prisoner of war of the Chinese People's Volunteers and Korean People's Army.

Peace was finally achieved in Korea only after heroic sacrifices by the Korean and Chinese people. Admittedly it is an uneasy peace, but at least the Korean skies have been cleared of the cotton wool vapour trails left by jet bombers on their way to deliver loads of high explosives on peaceful villages.

The cannons were hushed and the rugged hills were no longer drenched with the blood of fallen soldiers—boys, most of them, who should have been enjoying the love of their parents and learning how to become useful citizens. Yes, peace of a kind finally came to Korea.

Once this peace was established, I left Camp No. 5 on the Yalu River after, I must admit, a sorrowful farewell and journeyed south. I was going home! Yet the thrill I imagined I should have felt was missing. I was saying good-bye to people whom I shall probably never see again but always remember. I was saying good-bye to a way of life that is almost impossible for one from my part of the world to believe exists. I was leaving behind a world of sanity in which people lived to help each other, and all other peoples in the world; a people who are ardent in their desire for world peace. I was leaving people who had

shown me every sympathy and understanding; who had helped me to understand their devotion to the cause of building their country in peace and their desire to help make a better world for all men to live in. I was leaving true friends to whom I owe a deep debt.

Owing to the terrible climatic conditions that existed during the winter of 1950-51, we all, along with the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army, suffered hardships which I shall never forget. The difficulties and dangers we shared; the cold was the worst I have ever experienced, while during the day swarms of U.S. aircraft blasted everything from innocent farm buildings to peaceful farmers' ox-carts.

I shall always be haunted by the memory of the morning of January 10, 1951 when three U.S. planes rocketed a column of refugees about twenty miles north of Seoul. . . . The memory of a baby's foot still encased in its tiny rubber shoe lying on the frozen blood-splashed road, is burned into my brain. This wanton and ruthless slaughter was carried out by so-called "civilized" people. How Hitler's ghost must have laughed!

In spite of these terrible conditions, the Volunteers and Koreans that I met were happy and cheerful people, always smiling and willing to lend a hand to the P.O.W's. Of course we all suffered from the weather, yet at night, on the long march north to the established camps, they went out of their way to find warm rooms for us. When food and tobacco were as scarce as gold nuggets, they made sure that at all times we received the same as they had. We were always given the same rations and medical treatment as the Volunteers and Koreans. In fact, we were often given more, and always

we were treated with decency and friendliness.

Once camp was reached, the treatment we P.O.W's received was excellent. We were allowed to study and were provided with books, magazines and other reading material in abundance. I took full advantage of the opportunity, and the knowledge I gained is proving invaluable to me here in England. We were allowed to organize inter-camp Olympics on a gigantic scale, and were allowed to run our own magazines and news sheets. Although we were prisoners, we had every opportunity to live a rich and fruitful life, and I shall never lose my feeling of warm gratitude to the Chinese and Korean peoples.

Nor shall I ever forget the Volunteers and Koreans whom I grew to know and love. We were encouraged to be friendly with the people whom we met. It would have been against their deepest beliefs to be anything but friendly. Because this fact is so deeply engraved in my mind, I feel it is my duty to tell the British

people the truth about the Korean war. Let us hope that, by the efforts of the other ex-P.O.W's who have come back with the same longing as I have, a true understanding will be established between the British, Chinese and Korean peoples—and, for that matter, all peoples of the world.

I send greetings to my friends and the Chinese and Korean peoples and thank them for all they have done towards ensuring world peace. I thank them also for their kindness and humanity to myself and my countrymen who had fought against them in an unjust war, and I thank them for showing me a better way of life in which all men and women can live as brothers and sisters in peace.

I thank you, the Chinese and Korean people, for saving my life and opening my eyes to the truth.

(Signed)

R. A. COCKS

1st March, 1954

Book Review

Songs of New Life

Tsang Ke-chia

JEWELLED RED STAR is a collection of beautiful poems dedicated by the author Ai Ching* to the great masses of the people who today form the Chinese reading public. First published in June 1953 by the People's Publishing House, a second edition is now ready.

* Ai Ching, an active participant in the Chinese people's struggle for peace and freedom, is one of the outstanding poets of New China. He was born in the town of Iwu, Chekiang Province, in 1910. His first collection of poems, dealing with the life of the peasants, appeared in 1936. Many of his earlier poems were written while he was imprisoned for his activities directed against the Kuomintang terror and imperialist aggression against China. His collection of poems include *In the North*, *Tayen River*, *Facing the Sun*, *Open Land*, etc. He is a member of the Union of Chinese Writers.

The reviewer, Tsang Ke-chia, is himself a well-known poet.

The collection is divided into three groups: the first is made up of tributes to the Soviet Union; the second is in praise of peace and the third describes the peasants' life and the natural beauties of the liberated countryside. Richly varied though the themes are, they are welded into a harmonious whole by the poet's deep love for the people and peace. Most of these poems were written after the liberation. They are songs of the liberated Chinese people in the springtime of their life.

A mighty struggle is now going on in defence of peace. Today a people's poet must of necessity be a defender of peace, a singer of the blessings of peace. Ai Ching's poems serve this great cause with persuasive force. In this spirit of peace he eulogizes New China's victories and the brilliant, ever-changing life of its people. He tells us: "Millions of people

go the same way," and the way is to "safeguard the peace of the world." He shows the link between the life of his motherland and the cause of peace. In his poems dedicated to the artists of the Soviet Union and Korea, he shows the links between their lives and the struggle for peace.

In his poem "To Nazim Hikmet" which heads the second section, Ai Ching extols this well steeled partisan of peace, firm in his belief in the just cause of the people. Peace for Ai Ching is not an abstract conception. He makes us feel its reality through the pulsating rhythm of life; through the graceful dances and thrilling songs of our friends coming from afar. Peace is everything we hold dear. In these verses we can hear the strong and resolute tread of the peace-loving people.

Tributes to the Soviet Union

The poems paying tribute to the Soviet Union form the largest group in this selection. From Otpor, the first stop in the Soviet Union on the way from China, we follow the poet through Siberia, past Lake Baikal to Moscow. He records his impressions of the Soviet Union with great freshness and affection. He has a lively sense of the newness and vigour of what he sees. A handwave of welcome from a worker in the fields, the fluttering of a peasant woman's pretty skirts, a tiny flower or even a hardy tuft of grass filled with joy the heart of this guest who had desired for so long to come to the land of the Soviets. His poetical inspiration took wings. He wrote these lines in a happy mood and we share his sentiments as we read them.

Our Soviet friends received their guest with open arms and all their traditional hospitality. Ai Ching writes of this welcome:

*Living here even for this single day
Will forever remain the greatest joy in
my life.*

The poem "Jewelled Red Star," which gives this collection its title, is filled with a deep and genuine emotion. To Ai Ching the jewelled red star over the Kremlin is the symbol of truth. Its rays shine to every corner of the earth, inspiring those who are oppressed in darkness to rise and stand up for their rights and those who have emancipated themselves, to create a still better life.

It is with deep gratitude and pride that he praises the bulwark of world peace—the Soviet Union and the name of Stalin.

"Red Square in October" is another poem with deep political meaning. In it the poet hails the invincible revolutionary forces which pass in review before the mausoleum of Lenin, this great stream of the revolutionary forces that has gained strength from day to day and passed on from victory to victory to become the main support and defender of peace.

"Siberia" and "New City" are somewhat similar in theme. In these fine verses the poet expresses his love for the new and happy life he sees. His enthusiasm and admiration is infectious. His lines are invigorating. His imagination is rich; his metaphors and similes are new; his language simple. His verses have the strong tang of life.

The poems which Ai Ching wrote in the past described the unutterable sorrows of the peasants in old China. They roused in us a feeling of burning anger at injustice and fired us with a determination to join the struggle to build a new life. Now, in brilliant contrast, the last group of poems in this collection gives a picture of today's new life of the countryside. Here the colours are bright as those of wild flowers; the tone is joyous. These little poems do not pretend to give a complete view of the new villages, but we can sense the beautiful spring of their life. We see the happy peasants ploughing their own lands in the spring rains, singing in praise of the people's leader, Mao Tse-tung.

The poet's love for man inspires all his poems. He has shared the fate of the millions of working people and has taken part in the people's struggle for liberation. That is why the sentiments expressed in his new poems are those of the liberated masses of the Chinese people.

Ai Ching has glorified the new life of the Soviet Union and the new life of the people in the people's China. And he knows that this happy new life can be developed only under the canopy of peace. Peace binds the three parts of this collection into an integral whole. Chinese readers take a special delight in reading Ai Ching's poems because they reflect the true sentiments of the Chinese people.

CHINA TODAY

Chairman Mao's Message to South Africans

Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, sent a message of greetings to Yusuf Cachalia and D. U. Mistry, Joint Honorary Secretaries of the 21st Conference of the South African Indian Congress of the Union of South Africa, on May 23 in reply to a message in which they asked for support for the struggle of the non-white peoples in South Africa for democratic rights and against racial discrimination and oppression.

Chairman Mao's message reads:

"On behalf of the Chinese people, I fully support the just stand of the non-white peoples in South Africa (including Indians and other Asian and African peoples) for democratic rights and against racial discrimination and oppression. I wish your conference success in the cause of uniting Indians and all peoples in South Africa—both white and non-white peoples—in striving for peace, freedom, democracy and progress."

More Agricultural Producers' Coops

There has been a great increase in the number of agricultural producers' cooperatives. Peasants joining these cooperatives pool their land as shares; their management is unified and they are acquiring increasing amounts of collectively owned property such as draught animals and farm implements. Over 76,400 new agricultural producers' cooperatives were set up in various parts of the

country between January and the end of March this year to make a total of over 91,000 agricultural producers' cooperatives in the country today. Over 1,660,000 peasant households or 1.43% of the total in China are now members of such cooperatives. They farm a total area of 2,320,000 hectares, or 2.16% of the total cultivated area in the country.

North China leads in the development of agricultural producers' cooperatives. Over 36,000 cooperatives were set up in this area in the first quarter of 1954. This raises the total in North China to over 41,800, comprising 6.9% of the total number of peasant households in the area. They own altogether 6.28% of North China's cultivated land.

Cotton Planting Above Plan

This year's cotton sowing has been successfully completed throughout the country. According to preliminary figures collected by the Ministry of Agriculture, the total area sown to cotton has increased by 400,000 hectares over last year. This is about 70,000 hectares above plan. North and East China, the two chief cotton producing areas of China, have both overfulfilled their cotton sowing plans.

This year planting was completed considerably earlier than usual in the various cotton-producing areas, thus there is a good possibility of reaping a rich cotton crop earlier. Adequate supplies of insecticides and sprayers have also been prepared for the growers to deal with cotton pests.

Anshan Raises Labour Productivity

The steel workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company have achieved a further increase in labour productivity. In the first quarter of this year each steel smelter produced on an average 36% more than last year. In March this year, labour productivity was 183% above the monthly average for 1950. In April it topped the monthly average of the first quarter of the year by 0.8%.

There has been a corresponding increase in the value of steel produced in the first quarter of this year; this was 36% above the quarterly average for last year. In March this year it was 183% above the monthly average for 1950.

Kuanting Reservoir Completed

The completion of the Kuanting Reservoir—the first giant valley reservoir of New China's water conservancy programme—was celebrated by its builders on May 13, after two and a half years' work.

The Kuanting Reservoir is situated northwest of Peking on the upper reaches of North China's Yungting River. For more than a thousand years the chronic flooding of this river was a scourge to the millions living in its basin. It was only after liberation that the people were able to take measures to thoroughly control it. The Kuanting Reservoir alone will completely eliminate the floods which used to inundate the area around the capital and Tientsin, and caused incalculable damage to

towns and villages along the river's lower reaches.

The Reservoir is a man-made lake covering an area of 230 square kilometres and capable of holding over 2,270 million cubic metres of water. The Reservoir's water will be used for irrigation, to facilitate navigation on the waterway between Peking and Tientsin and provide water for factories and homes in Peking. Work is now going ahead at Kuanting on the construction of a hydroelectric power station.

Training National Minority Workers

Over 13,000 skilled workers, technicians and employees have been trained in the past four years from among the various national minority peoples inhabiting Sinkiang Province. In Urumchi's factories and mines, 20% of the workers and employees are members of the national minorities. This is an increase of 200% over the 1951 figure. Sinkiang's "July 1st" Cotton Mill has taken on 50 new women workers of the national minorities in the last five months.

Last year, Sinkiang Province sent 110 workers and employees from the national minorities to receive training in factories and mines in other parts of the country. Some were sent to learn modern methods of silk reeling in Soochow, Kiangsu Province; others are learning new methods of coal mining and production management in Anhwei Province's Huainan Colliery.

New Children's Hospital

China's biggest children's hospital is now being built in Peking's western suburbs. It covers an

area of 57,000 square metres, of which approximately 31,000 square metres will be occupied by the building.

The hospital, furnished with the most up-to-date equipment, will be staffed by 170 doctors and 430 nurses.

Peking-Pyongyang Through Trains

The first two-way, twice-a-week through train service between Peking and Pyongyang started on June 3.

The bright and well ventilated interiors of the coaches are beautifully decorated and well equipped.

Soviet Exhibition Hall

Construction of the magnificent Soviet Exhibition Hall in Peking's western suburbs is now well advanced.

The building has a total space of over 313,000 cubic metres, with a Central Hall, a Hall of Industry, a Hall of Agriculture, a Hall of Culture, a cinema, a restaurant, an open air theatre, etc., capable of accommodating 80,000 people at a time. Except for the open air theatre, the main structures have all been erected. Plastering and installation work are being completed and the finishing touches are being put to some halls. A gilded tower surmounted by a large red star has been raised above the Central Hall.

Work began last October and is scheduled to be completed within this year.

Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries

A Chinese People's Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign

Countries was established in China on May 3. It is jointly sponsored by 10 people's organizations of China, including the China Peace Committee and the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

In announcing the inauguration of the Society, Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee and the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, pointed out that, since the victory of the Chinese people's revolution, more than 20 countries have set up friendship associations or societies for cultural relations with China. The new society will establish close cultural ties with these organizations and, it is hoped, with ever broader masses of the people of the various countries. It aims to strengthen friendship with all other peoples through extensive cultural exchanges.

Chu Tu-nan was elected Chairman and Ting Hsi-lin, Yang Han-sheng and Hung Shen, Vice-Chairmen of the Society.

Czechoslovak Puppet Show Exhibition

An exhibition on Czechoslovak puppet shows was opened in Peking's Chungshan Park on May 9, the 9th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia. It is sponsored by the Liaison Bureau for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries under the Committee of Cultural and Educational Affairs of the Government Administration Council.

The exhibits, including many illustrations, photographs and beautifully made puppets, depict the history and development of the puppet shows of Czechoslovakia, the training of puppeteers and methods of production of puppet plays and films.

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