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The Death of a Poet

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## Contents

### EDITORIALS:

Death of a Poet .. .. .	1215
Scheming France .. .. .	1215
A Remarkable Research Association .. .. .	1216
Wanted: A Leader .. .. .	1216
Clash in the Northeast .. .. .	1217
Baker vs. Hoover .. .. .	1218
Seiyukai Back to Power .. .. .	1218
National Emergency Conference .. .. .	1218
The Paris Compromise .. .. .	1219

### SPECIAL ARTICLES:

Manchurian Crisis Part of French Plot—By O. D. Rasmussen	1220
Japan's China Policy as Shaped by Her Two Principle Parties— By Mine-Taro Hamada .. .. .	1224

### THE LITTLE CRITIC:

An Open Letter to Will Rogers .. .. .	1224
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### BOOK REVIEW:

The Biological Basis of Human Nature—By H. S. Jennings..	1225
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### FACTS & FIGURES:

Shanghai Foreign Exchange Index Numbers .. .. .	1226
Gold Bar Quotations in Shanghai .. .. .	1226
Chinese Government Bonds Quotations .. .. .	1226
Stock & Bonds Averages .. .. .	1227

### CHIEF EVENTS

FROM THE CHINESE PRESS .. .. .	1232
FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS .. .. .	1233
PUBLIC FORUM .. .. .	1234

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THE recent tragic death of Mr. Tsumo Hsu, as a result of an accident when the plane that carried him as the only passenger from Nanking to Peiping collided with a mountain peak near Tsinan, cannot be sufficiently deplored. Like Adonais, Mr. Hsu died in his prime, for he had just reached his thirty-sixth birthday this year. (Lord Byron, if we remembered correctly, was also thirty-six when he died). A most brilliant poet of his generation, he will always be remembered by his "A Night in Florence," "Poems of Tsumo" and his last poetical collection "Tiger, Tiger," so entitled because it contains his translation of Blake's famous-lines. Besides these works of poetry, he has also left behind him two volume of essays, and, in collaboration with his wife, a play; not to mention his translations of Voltaire's "Candide," Katherine Mansfield's "Garden Party," etc., etc. His friends will long cherish the memory of him as a most charming personality, for in him "breathed an animation, a fire, an enthusiasm, a vivid and preternatural intelligence" that were truly Shellyesque. In fact, his life is as full of "Sturm and Drang" as that of the English poet, and if somebody would only take the pains to write his biography, it would indeed be a document of immense human interest and value. It would be more than a life of a man, it would be a history of an epoch in Chinese literature of the recent past.

## Scheming France

WE publish elsewhere in this issue an article by O. D. Rasmussen on "Manchurian Crisis Part of French Plot." According to this author, the Manchurian crisis is only a preliminary step "in a plot involving seven nations in a gigantic war," and France is the motivating force behind it all. The alleged plot, we are told, was known to the White Russian emigres in Paris, and it was due to their "bragging" that the news leaked out. While of course, we have no means to confirm the existence of such a plan, yet the recent events have made us believe that France must have something in her sleeves. Thus according to *The China Press*, a news despatch from Canton dated December 12 states that the French military are at present very active along the Kwangsi-Annam border, indicating thus that France is now about to be ready to follow in the footsteps of the Japanese militarists in order to satisfy her imperialistic ambitions. If the news is true, then we have indeed reasons for alarm. France as a nations has become more and more militaristic since the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Treaty. Her chauvinistic politicians have been seriously contemplating the plan of creating a hegemony in Europe under the leadership of France. In carrying out such a plot, she naturally looks upon Soviet Russia as her strongest potential enemy, hence her desire to win over Japan, knowing very well that Russia is Japan's