

Come to think of it, this knack at *mot juste* for which some people are said to be famous is perhaps very much exaggerated anyhow. Thus, we have been told that not only was General Pershing not responsible for the curt saying: "Lafayette, we have come!" but in fact, the words had never been spoken by anybody. Again, biographers of Lincoln have only recently found out that what Booth said after he had assassinated the American president was not, as the popular tradition has it, "Sic Semper Tyrannis" but "I feel faint, get me a doctor quick."

* * *

Reasoning by analogy from the above, therefore, we have reason to suspect that many epigrams said to have been uttered by the great and near-great are perhaps all wrongly attributed to them. Who can be sure for instance that it was Napoleon who said of Goethe "Voilà un homme" and not *vice versa*? Again, how can we be certain that "Veni, vidi, vici" was written by Julius Caesar and was not suggested to him by his amanuensis? Similarly, did Nero actually murmur "Qualis artifex pereo" before his death or was it Suetonius who put that into his mouth? And are these in fact the last words of Beethoven: "Plaudite, amici, comedia finita est"? Truly, I can not tell. And truly, for that matter, who can?

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BOOK REVIEW

EDITED BY QUENTIN PAN

China's Own Critics

*A Selection of Essays by Hu Shih and Lin Yu-tang.
Edited by Tang Leang-li. With Commentaries by Wang
Ching-wei. Pages vii and 166. Tientsin and Shanghai:
China United Press. 1931.*

CHINA'S Own Critics is a collection of seventeen essays, five by Dr. Hu Shih, and twelve by Dr. Lin Yu-tang, with two commentaries by Mr. Wang Ching-wei coming behind two of Dr. Hu's essays. Dr. Hu's writings are well-known to Chinese readers, as practically all of them first appeared in *The New Moon*, a monthly which in the past few years, has attracted nation-wide attention; those of Dr. Lin originally appeared in English in the pages of *The Critic*, and are therefore already well-known to many Chinese and foreign readers.

All these essays are, as the editor Mr. Tang has remarked in his Preface, "intellectually and morally refreshing." Though written two or three years ago, none of them is out-of-date. Such question raised by Dr. Hu as "Which Road Shall We Take?" and "When Shall We Have A Constitution" are still being constantly asked, and more insistent now than ever. Mr. Wang's commentaries are equally interesting, in that they betray very noticeably how the mind of a doctrinaire infallibly works, particularly when attempting to show that the doctrine with which he is identified is infallible.

Both authors have shown themselves able critics of China's own cultural and national life. Dr. Hu's rather unfavourable attitude towards Chinese civilization, however, is not much in evidence in these essays, as they are largely political and deal only with current problems. That Dr. Lin is deeply dissatisfied both with China's cultural heritage and her present political control is well shown in all of his "little critics." It will be admitted by most readers that while Dr. Lin's criticisms are penetrating, they are not always very just. Some of them have to be taken with a grain of salt, and all of them with a grain of humour. While they were in right place in the columns of "The Little Critic," they have to be read and appreciated with a great deal more caution when re-published elsewhere.

Dr. Hu, in one of his essays, repeatedly refers to *The Critic* as semi-official. This is most unfortunate. That *The Critic* has at times proved more considerate of the government than was necessary is perhaps a fact. But everybody has his semi-official moments, from which even Dr. Hu himself does not seem to have been entirely free.

China's Own Critics is interesting enough, but what we need more at the present time is some real critics from and of the Kuomintang Party which is in control of China and has promised to make China safe from critics, Chinese or foreign. *Kuomintang's Own Critics* is the book that most readers are looking forward to. It is interesting, nay, even

FACTS & FIGURES

Three Years Goods Exported To Japan During The Last

Fruits, Dried and preserved:—

	1928	1929	1930
Dates, Black	5,054	6,244	8,171
" Red	2,437	5,345	3,491
Lichees	621	1,365	705
Lunggans	120	64	83
Persimmons	25,396	44,623	37,744
In Tins	181	—	1,019
Not otherwise recorded	13,830	10,684	10,999

Fruits, Fresh:

Bananas	—	—	—
Chestnuts	112,763	120,546	129,073
Groundnuts, in Shell	349,632	414,823	431,831
" Kernels	875,374	1,497,280	1,662,508
Olives	18	6	6
Oranges	6	5	5
Pears	200	1,382	3,248
Walnuts, in Shell	132,852	71,747	17,677
" Kernels	376,372	606,017	563,357
Not otherwise recorded	2,278	5,159	12,311
Fungus, Black	45,781	23,204	35,998
Garlic	42,725	31,452	48,268
Ginger, Fresh and Preserved	—	37	—
Ginseng	4,776	2,882	14,866
Liquorice	446,225	567,290	839,074
Mushrooms	2,082	2,843	1,869
Oil, Bean	84,603	42,002	14,988
" Castor	—	840	44,164
" Groundnut	12,701	4,738	430,548
" Sesamum Seed	337	561	472
" Tea	80,602	106,319	92,881
" Wood	172,164	451,855	279,423
" Vegetable, other kinds	325,251	277,686	373,847

Oils, Essential:—

Camphor	308	103	—
Other kinds	—	—	—
Peels Orange and Pumelo	175	181	250
Potatoes (not including Sweet Potatoes)	22,283	35,386	26,534
Rhubarb	67,161	68,687	83,393
Sauce (not including Soy Oyster Sauce, and Shrimp Sauce)	—	—	—
Seed, Apricot (Almonds)	60,816	74,781	27,176
" Castor	1,000,968	780,492	532,354
" Cotton	2,091,336	2,889,045	2,515,007

" Hemp	566,537	778,354	586,233
" Lily-flower (Lotus-nuts)	3,695	1,586	2,799
" Linseed	21,263	1,940	56,597
" Melon	138,279	234,037	129,801
" Perilla	657,655	1,059,467	2,119,957
" Rape	1,941,157	6,096,727	4,342,177
" Sesamum	2,660,331	2,773,182	2,936,176
" other kinds	84,596	57,095	97,862
Seed-cake, Bean	32,958,975	31,692,297	27,422,532
" Cotton	2,097,967	2,735,595	3,780,489
" Groundnut	304,959	286,660	270,834
" Rape	1,375,053	1,447,308	1,094,609
" not otherwise recorded	209,174	195,900	177,124
Soy	—	38	216
Spices	90	304	161
Straw Braid, Mottled	509,959	563,100	589,823
" White	612,350	323,675	209,042
Sugar, Brown	40	7	—
" White and/or Refined	9,177	2	11
" Candy	19	6	—
" Canes	2	—	—
Tallow, Vegetable	37,032	151,115	21,099
Tea, Black, Gongou	1,356	—	—
" other kinds	11,194	29,409	20,745
" Green, Gunpowder	31,341	19,170	—
" Hyson	122,634	183,919	145,149
" Young Hyson	—	—	61
" other kinds	277	59	897
" Briok, Black	17,627	55	69
" Green	—	—	—
" Leaf, Unfired	—	—	—
" Scented	42,746	5,172	38,669
" Siftings	—	—	—
" Dust	—	—	—
" Stalk	—	—	—
" not otherwise recorded	—	—	—
Tobacco, Leaf	410,119	107,647	339,708
" Prepared	114,400	48	374
" other kinds	—	4,341	1,981
Turnips, Dried and Salted	1,124	94	2,753
Vegetables, in Tins	—	9	57
" Dried, Fresh, and Salted, not otherwise recorded	82,032	44,062	77,848
Vermicelli and Macaroni	30,162	39,208	50,053
Wax, Vegetable	—	—	—

ironical to see while Mr. Tang was editing *China's Own Critics*, Mr. Wang Ching-wei, for and about whom he has been writing so much, has not deviated much from the path which Nanking had always pursued before Mr. Wang came on the scene in dealing with non-Kuomintang critics of Kuomintang rule. *The New Moon* from which practically all of Dr. Hu's essays in this volume are taken, is still under ban. The editor of a big Shanghai newspaper has been very recently warned and reprimanded for comparing and criticising Mr. Wang's views expressed before and after he came to take charge of the national government toward the end of last year.

In his commentaries of Dr. Hu's articles, Mr. Wang has

more than once made reference to "the true Party member." But where is he? How many true members are there? How are they to be picked out? Is there not the fairly general feeling suggested by reading Friedrich Nietzsche that there has but been one true Kuomintang member and that he died of cancer of stomach in Peiping on the eve of effecting a united China without bloodshed? Such questions can only be adequately answered when *Kuomintang's Own Critics* is written and published, meanwhile let us read *China's Own Critics* and rest assured that all our ills are traceable to a faulty cultural heritage and to unscrupulous political leaders who were at heart and in spirit not truly Kuomintang.

Q. P.