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## Humor And Humanity

THE past two years have seen more books on the enjoyment of life than any other period since the Great War. Dorothea Brande's "Wake Up And Live," Dale Carnegie's "How To Win Friends And Influence People," Stanley de Brath's "How To Make The Best Of Life," Orison Swett Marden's "Cheerfulness As A Life Power," Marjorie Hillis's "Live Alone And Like It," Anne Fisher's "Live With A Man And Love It," Anne Hirst's "Get Your Man—And Keep Him," and dozens of others have popped up following the public's sudden demand for such books. Life begins at any age. However, interesting as these books are—for it is really impossible to be dull on the subject of getting the best of life—they are in many ways unsatisfactory and have not treated the business of living as exhaustively as we would like them to. Each of these books has treated only one aspect or a few isolated problems of this inexhaustibly absorbing business of living. Such deficiencies are not apparent in Lin Yutang's masterpiece, "The Importance Of Living," which has just been published in the United States, winning the honor of being the choice of the Book-Of-The-Month Club for November. A number of our Chinese friends, after having read these books written by American and English authors, seem to be skeptical about the popularity and ovation given them and ask "What do they know about this great business of living, they who have no time to explore all the finesse of life and living?" A real artist of living, it seems to us, would be a phenomenon so unusual that pilgrims might well come from the ends of the world to contemplate him. That is perhaps why people do come from the ends of the world to contemplate Lin Yutang who knows his business of living inside out, scientifically and empirically, mentally and biologically, spiritually and sensuously, collectively and individually, and who has turned every stone and discovered all dimensions of life. Every aspect of the art of living has been sparklingly discussed in his inimitable style. "I should have liked to call it 'A Lyrical Philosophy,'" he says, "using the word 'lyrical' in the sense of being a highly personal and individual outlook." But he preferred to "lie low, to cling to the soil, to be of kin to the sod." He says he is not deep and not well-read, but after having read his book it is difficult to believe his modesty. He has made many valuable suggestions on the enjoyment of living and has invented some very interesting and provocative formulas to denote the characteristics of different peoples and a few individual men. War would be impossible, he says, if we "let Shaw represent Ireland, Stephen Leacock represent Canada; G. K. Chesterton is dead, but P. G. Wodehouse or Aldous Huxley may represent England. Will Rogers is dead, otherwise he would make a fine diplomat representing the U.S.; we can have in his stead Robert Benchley or Heywood Brown...." We can just imagine how such a group of people in a round-table conference would decide on all the critical international issues. Each of them would be telling the others how funny his own people are! In passing, we

should like to inform Yutang publicly through this journal that we would give our most enthusiastic support to his nomination as China's representative. We would have a different world if all nations would be willing to entrust their destinies to such wise men. But there is more wisdom contained in this book. His chapter on the "Importance Of Loafing" is an extension of Bertrand Russell's "In Praise of Idleness"; the chapter on "The Enjoyment of Living", a brilliant counterpart of G. K.'s "Essays On Nothing"; the chapter on "The Enjoyment of Culture" a further lucid exposition of Abbé Dimnet's "The Art Of Thinking." Indeed as the author has said "the ideas expressed here have been thought and expressed by many thinkers of the East and West over and over again." But the fact that he has so thoroughly digested all the cream of Oriental and Occidental ideas and put them lucidly, simply and provocatively before us in such a brilliant manner inspires our envy and admiration. This book seems to be the climax of his wisdom. After having read it, we began to ask, "What doesn't he know, this Lin Yutang who all things knows?" The readers of this journal need hardly any further recommendation of this book by the author of "Little Critic" fame. However, we would not be doing justice to the author without mentioning something about the two valuable appendices, especially Appendix B (A Chinese Critical Vocabulary) which includes some of the Chinese words which are most difficult to translate into English. This difficult task is performed with the greatest ease and clarity. In short, of the whole book, of the manner in which it is planned and executed, we can only say, *palmam qui meruit ferat*. In every page there is wit and wisdom, there is humor and humanity. We take our hats off.

### Roumania Goes Fascist

THE recent Fascist coup in Roumania is a definite victory for Germany. Roumania, together with the other Danubian countries, had of late been showing very democratic tendencies. King Carol had put his foot down against the terroristic fascist-nazi organization, the Iron Guard, and forced its disbandment. Roumania also recently placed her orders for arms in Czechoslovakia, which is the most democratic of the Danubian countries, while at the autumn army manoeuvres, the French Chief of Staff was reported to be much in evidence. When M. Yvon Delbos, the French foreign minister, visited the Roumanian capital on his recent Central European tour, a Reuter report dated December 9 said: "The visit is hailed as a mission of peace, in which the French statesman is regarded by all leading political parties as representing democratic countries. It is emphasized that Roumania has every political and economic interest to follow the lead of Great Britain and France." On December 28, however, a Fascist government was formed, following the resignation of the Tatarescu cabinet, which did not have a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. The situation would seem paradoxical were it not for the peculiar conditions existing in Roumania today. While there has been a recent tendency to swing towards democracy, the political trends in Roumania during the past few years have been contradictory. So many countries have been busy courting her

favor and she has been torn by many conflicting forces. France has been most friendly and anxious to win Roumanian favor with offers of financial assistance. Czechoslovakia, a fellow-member of the Little Entente has vast arms factories to attract. Poland has sent her President and Foreign Minister to make advances. Russia has intimated her willingness to abandon her claims to Bessarabia in exchange for friendship with Roumania. On the other hand, Italy has been offering trade advantages similar to those granted to Austria and Hungary in the Rome Pacts. Germany has perhaps been the most ardent suitor of all and has poured large sums of money into financing her schemes. These activities cover the subsidizing of newspapers and terroristic anti-Semitic organizations, the corrupting of public officials and the utilization of minorities and exchange students for the purpose of disseminating Nazi propaganda. King Carol is also reported to be of many minds as to his inclinations. While he has a liking for France and repressed the Iron Guard, he is also a great admirer of Hitler and envies the "dymanism" of the fascists. He vacillates between his two loves. The new government of Octavian Goga declares itself to be anti-Semitic, anti-Democratic and anti-Bolshevistic and it is announced that a racial policy will be carried out and enforced in the economic as well as the social field. The National Christian Party will no doubt follow the lines of the German National Socialist Party. It is also reported that Roumania's contract with France and Czechoslovakia for the supply of armaments has been temporarily suspended, while the Soviet Minister to Roumania has notified the new Roumanian Government of the Soviet's intention to denounce the Non-Aggression Pact with Roumania. For the time being at least, Germany's suit has won favour in Roumanian eyes. How long she will remain in the ascendancy and what Europe's reaction will be to this new development in the Danubian basin remains to be seen.

### Truth in Celluloid

ACCORDING to latest reports, the motion picture taken by Mr. Norman Alley, the Universal Newsreel cameraman, during the Japanese bombing of the U.S.S. Panay in the Yangtse River on December 12 has arrived in New York, and has been shown publicly there. Since Mr. Alley's departure from Shanghai with his "million dollar scoop", most elaborate precautions were taken to safeguard the precious cargo. United States secret service operatives, special guards, armoured cars and motorcycle convoys were charged with the duty of preventing any attempt to destroy this valuable piece of evidence. According to Mr. Alley's statement, two apparent attempts were made by the Japanese to obtain the films. The first was when a Japanese spokesman attempted to reach him upon his arrival in Shanghai and the second when a Japanese seaplane circled over the American destroyer on which he was travelling to Manila. At the same time, the newsreel films of the incident taken by Mr. Eric Mayell, Fox Movietone cameraman, who was also on the scene at the time of the Japanese attack, have arrived in Hollywood, where they have already been given a private showing. It is understood that officials of both companies have announced that