

the Chinese victory. The Japanese spokesman in Shanghai, for instance, declared that the "aim of the Japanese operations in north Kwangtung to destroy the headquarters of forces under General Yu Han-mou" had been "successfully concluded". He also declared that the Japanese had "no intention of occupying Shaokwan or any other towns in Kwangtung at present." Naturally, the Japanese are trying to save their face as best they can. Such tactics, however, are not likely to succeed any more than in the past. Japanese propaganda has been singularly unconvincing, and, while it may be palatable for home consumption, it does not hold water anywhere else. Chinese victories will remain victories, despite all the efforts of Japanese propaganda to paint them otherwise.

Moral Re-armament in Action

IN previous issues, we have acquainted our readers with facts about Moral Re-armament, the new way of life, which, it is claimed, holds the key to real peace and happiness for the human race. Thousands of people have already pledged their support to the movement, which is spreading with remarkable rapidity through every country in the world. China has been no exception, and here in Shanghai it has already gained a large number of enthusiastic adherents among men and women in many different walks of life. Proof that Moral Re-armament is no passing fad, but a movement destined to cut deep into the life of the community was strikingly demonstrated on December 28, when the Shanghai Branch of the Chinese Medical Association passed a unanimous resolution calling for a "war of construction" in the medical and associated professions, for the purpose of purging them of dishonest practices. The first step in the "war of construction" will be aimed at the elimination of "prescription rebates" and other commissions, which were formerly received by doctors from dispensaries, laboratories, hospitals, etc. The meeting unanimously agreed that "in 1940 both these old ways of wrong giving and dishonorable getting be purged out from the medical profession." Nothing but the highest praise is due to the Association in so courageously taking action for the elimination of one of the gravest blots on the Chinese medical profession in Shanghai. The "prescription rebates" referred to are the extra charges added by pharmacies, laboratories, hospitals etc. to the regular price of medicines, which are paid by the patient and later collected by the doctor writing the prescription. These extra charges range from 10% to as much as 30% of the regular price of the medicine. How certain medical practitioners have thus enriched themselves at the expense of their patients has been a crying shame. Indeed nothing could be more callous than their cruel exploitation of the misfortunes of those whom their profession calls upon them to aid and succor. Against these inhuman practices, the patient has had no defence. The pharmacies, in order to secure business, have connived, either willingly or because they had no alternative, in cheating the public. The resolution passed by the Medical Association has been circularized among the leading Chinese pharmacies and associated dispensaries

in Shanghai and is already drawing response from some of the largest and most respected firms in the city. This should go a long way towards bringing the others into line. As far as the pharmacies are concerned, they would willingly dispense with the practice, since it would enable them to sell their goods at much lower prices,—prices much more attractive to the public. However, as long as the doctors demanded the rebate, they were forced to add it to their customers' bills. The change had to come from the doctors and the doctors alone. The decision of the Medical Association to eliminate the practice from the profession is a great step forward towards the eradication of the evil. If it succeeds, the credit will go to Moral Re-armament, which provided the inspiration for the resolution. Judging from this one instance, it is not difficult to understand why Moral Re-armament is gaining such a hold upon people everywhere. It is to be hoped that leaders of other professions and the business world, educators and administrators in this city will follow the example of the Medical Association and inject Moral Re-armament principles into their daily activities, thus reducing greed and self-seeking, and substituting service to the common good in their place. Shanghai could be a much better place to live in, if people would only take the trouble.

Another German Peace Plan

AS we commented in our issue last week, the Reich has by no means given up hope that, before next spring,—the time marked for the general offensive on the Western Front,—some kind of "peace" will be arranged which will enable Germany to dispense with the necessity of fighting the Allies. Various schemes have been under consideration, but no magic formula has yet been found that will satisfy both Germany and the Allies. Herr Hitler himself, both before and after the declaration of war by Great Britain and France, has advanced various peace offers, none of which, however, met with any response from the Allies. They were so obviously one-sided and directly opposite to what the two democracies have stated are their peace aims that their rejection caused little surprise. That the Reich is still striving its utmost to organize a diplomatic offensive for a peace favorable to Germany, which would leave her in possession of an essential part of her conquests, was revealed by the *Le Petit Parisien* correspondent in Italy in a recent report. According to this report, important influences are working to make Herr Hitler reshuffle his regime and present it under a more "civilized" form. Herr Hitler would become President under the new government, Field Marshal Hermann Goering would be Chancellor, while radicals like Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Herr Himmler and Dr. Ley would be eliminated. Herr R. Mackensen, it is added, would probably become Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Schacht Minister of Economics. As regards imperialist aims, it would be assumed that Poland and Czechoslovakia would be reduced in size according to the arbitration of a high personage. Autocracy would be renounced and there