

Yu-tang's epic of Chinese life proves to be both clever and wise. For reading the story of the Yao family serves to whet the appetite of the readers for the equally absorbing stories of the other families. Undoubtedly, having been so auspiciously introduced, "*Moment in Peking*" will easily lead the list of "best sellers" in the Shanghai book mart.

Indeed, *The China Digest Incorporating Spotlight* is a well-edited and well-printed magazine. That it enjoys a big sale at C\$8 per year and 80c. per copy is attested by the large number of advertisements in each issue. For January, 1940 a total of 32 advertisements, large and small, appeared in the magazine under review. It is curious to note that of this number 20 ads were Japanese and 12 non-Japanese. In view of the fact that the advertisements of Japanese business firms represent over 60 per cent. of all the ads in a single issue and that most of the Japanese ads are either full-page or half-page cuts, the Japanese advertisements have regularly contributed a major share to the cost of the publication.

Since *The China Digest Incorporating Spotlight* is edited and published by an American, it is generally assumed that it maintains an attitude of absolute neutrality with no axe to grind. From the above survey of its contents for the January issue, *The China Digest* seems to be not a pro-Chinese publication. To be sure, *The China Digest*, as it is, does not hold a strictly neutral view in its editorial

policy, especially when it endorses views and opinions in support of Japan's aggressive policy in China: Japanese firms continue to dominate the list of its advertisers.

At present, people in Europe and America are taking an increasing interest in Chinese affairs. It is altogether fitting and proper to keep them correctly informed and well posted on men and events in China. Unfortunately, most foreigners do not know what they ought to read about China. Some journalistic adventurers have seized the chance to spread malicious propaganda abroad to the detriment of the innocent Chinese. Thus, China's foreign friends have right along been spoon-fed with one-sided news, editorials and articles that smack of a strong anti-Chinese feeling in an attempt to create an unfavorable impression of the Government authorities of leading Powers and sway public opinion among the people of foreign countries against the inalienable rights and legitimate claims of China.

Under such conditions, it becomes all the more necessary to furnish foreign readers news and views on all phases of Chinese life without bias or prejudice. For this reason an impartial magazine of condensed articles on China fills a long-felt and war-present need. By so doing, a magazine like the *China Digest* can perform an important mission of international interpretation. It is a real opportunity of distinct service not only to China and the Chinese but the Government and people of other countries as well.

The Literary Magazines in Shanghai

By HENRY H. HUANG (黄聚韩)

SHANGHAI was the center of literature of China. Three or four years ago many magazines were printed in Shanghai. They had a great number of readers all over the whole country. At that time the famous writers gathered in this place. They wrote splendid articles, novels, short stories, poems and many other types of literature. In the altar of literature there were many arguments about the principles as well as the methods of thinking and writing. The flower of literature seemed quite beautiful and fragrant at that time. But now it faded.

When the Sino-Japanese War broke out, most writers went to every corner of China: Some went to Shanghai, some went to Chungking, some went to Kweilin, some went to Changsha and some went to Kweiyang. The flood of literature flew to inland cities and stopped and irrigated the uncivilized inland places. So the inland cities became very vivid day by day.

When our army did not leave Shanghai, we did have many magazines in this place to encourage the soldiers, the people and the foreign friends; but after that the magazines moved to inland cities to continue their work of encouraging the people. There were many reasons why the magazines could not continue their printing in Shanghai. First, Shanghai was "conquered" by our invader and the territory around the Settlement and Concession was temporarily occupied by our relentless enemy. Secondly the inland cities needed such magazines to make the people wake up. The force must be scattered widely. Thirdly our enemy did not permit us to print "propaganda maga-

zines" in this place. Though there were these three reasons a few magazines still remained in Shanghai and some new newspapers and magazines were born. The only reason was that Shanghai still belongs to China, the people in Shanghai still have to struggle with their environment. But what is good to us is bad to our enemy, so our enemy asked the government of Settlement and Concession to abolish such newspapers and magazines, and the literary condition of Shanghai became worse and worse.

To this day, all the magazines in Shanghai are very poor both in contents and in economic condition. The number of readers of magazines is very small. The "Lu-Sin Wind" was the best magazine that appeared in Shanghai after the Sino-Japanese war had broken out, but it could not last long and after the 19th volume it was stopped by the authorities of the Settlement. "Pao Sheng" was also a very good magazine, but it was cut many months ago. Now, the magazines now being published in Shanghai may be classified into three classes:

First kind of magazine is managed by youths who are very patriotic and have most advanced thoughts. They are not afraid of the bad environment. They speak what they want to and have to speak. They think that China must resist her enemy until there is not one enemy in our territory. They think that between China and Japan no peace can be talked about unless Japanese go back to their own country immediately. They carol the brave Chinese soldiers in the battlefield; they fight traitors of China; and they lift off the cover of the existing darkness of Shanghai. In

CHINA CARRIES ON

WARTIME STUDENT LIFE

Student life in China is now on a wartime basis. The widespread destruction of universities and schools has shifted the cultural center of China into the interior. Thousands of students and professors have migrated from the coast to the western provinces.

As we visualize conditions in China today, there are at least three different scenes of student life. First, among the schools and universities which have found their new home in the western provinces. Secondly, among the thousands of students congregated in foreign-protected areas like Shanghai and Hongkong. Thirdly, among those who remain in the so-called "occupied" areas, especially Peiping.

The major scene of student life in China today is among the schools and universities that have moved into the Chungking and Chengtu have suddenly interior. Cities like Kunming Kweiyang, become the new seats of higher learning.

Before the war broke out in 1937, Kunming had only one struggling university with less than 200 students. But during the last two years, the war has brought six other important universities and colleges to Kunming and its vicinity. The total college population has now been pushed up to 7000. Other students come from all over China, including Peiping, Tientsin, Shanghai and Canton. In the whole province of Kweichow, there was not a single college before the present

a word they dare to face facts and do not want to escape from their responsibilities. The most famous ones of this kind of magazines are "the News of Literature", "the Literary Tide" and "the Red Leaves". The "News of Literature" is managed by the most famous writers in present Shanghai. In this magazine there are mainly the news of Chinese writers, their daily lives as well as their writings, and the informations of the literary organizations in the inland cities and Shanghai. Besides these there are poems, essays, short stories and the comments on motion pictures and dramas. The volumes are very thin but their contents are good. It is a half-monthly and has several thousands of readers.

The "Literary Tide" includes editorials, poems, short stories, essays and novel. Besides these there is the literary report, a newly popularized type of literature. The writers of this magazine are well-known to Shanghai

hostilities. At present, Kweiyang can boast of one full-fledged university and two important medical colleges.

Chungking can also look to Sha Ping Pa, about ten miles from the city, as its educational center. There are seven universities and schools with a total enrollment of well over 5000 students. They include the famous National Central University from Nanking and the Nankai Middle School from Tientsin, Chengtu has also added six universities and colleges, besides the original National Szechuen University and West China Union University. Four of these "refugee institutions" are temporarily using the campus of the latter in Hwa Hsi Pa.

Needless to say, most of these universities and colleges suffer from the lack of adequate buildings and other facilities. For instance, the National Central University in Chungking, the Hunan-Yale Medical College in Kweiyang and the National Southwest Associated University in Kunming have put up temporary matcheds or mud-brick houses for their classrooms and dormitories. The National Central University completed the construction of 50 buildings in the record time of only 40 days. These are all nestled on a little hill within the compound of Chungking University in Sha Ping Pa.

The migration of these universities and colleges from the Peiping-Tientsin area and the coastal cities has brought a new lease of life to the cultural development of these interior cities. The "down-

river" students are often quite modern, smart, and move at a quick pace. Men-students usually mix quite freely with their fellow women-students. The English language is freely and quite fluently used among many. Their costumes and habits frequently appear odd to the natives.

This has created the difficult problem of proper adjustment between the local students and those from outside. It is common to hear naive remarks by the local students that, if it were not for the influx of these "down-river" people, there would probably be no air raids, no cholera epidemic, and the prices would not soar so high. But, on the whole, the situation is working all to the good. The "down-river" students have quickened the tempo of the local students and given a healthy stimulus to the lifting of their general scholastic standards.

The migration has also brought about a close relationship between the faculty and students. Some of the universities have moved into the interior in big groups, including students and faculty and even some families. During the long march of the Temporary University from Changsha to Kunming, the National Chekiang University from Hangchow to Yi-san, and the University of Nanking from Nanking to Chengtu, the faculty members and students had to travel together and many professors have won the respect and confidence of the students. When these institutions settled down in the interior, the professors had again to crowd under the same roof with the students and to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in overcoming various difficulties. The system of part-time professors—that is, professors teaching simultaneously in several universities—is no longer possible in this change of environment.

readers though including new writers. I think this magazine is next to the former "Fu-Sin Wind". The "Red Leaves" is a newly published magazine. It contains the translations of Soviet literature, the short stories describing the darkness of Shanghai and proses which fight remnant feudalism violently.

The second kind of magazines contains translations of foreign magazines especially those printed in America. The most famous ones are "the West Wind", "the Universe", and "the World Things". They do not talk about the war in our country. Though they exist in China they do not visualize that the Sino-Japanese War is still going on. These magazines, however, have a large number of readers. "The Universe" is managed by the "oldest" writers of China. They do sometimes talk about the war but they dare not say every thing about the war.

The third kind of magazines is devoted to "pure literature". The most

famous ones are "the Literary Culture", "the South Wind" and "the Literary Pen". They translate the poems of Shelly and many best writings of the world. But those writings have nothing to do with the war. Though they may have certain value, yet the writers may devote their time to better use than import foreign ideas of no great moment. It seems that China is still in the state of peace. "The Literary Pen" is much better than the other two. It sometimes describes the bravery of fighting and bitterness of Shanghai people; but it also wastes ability and time in "pure literature".

It is very unfortunate that the good magazines can not last long while the poor magazines can have a greater number of readers. The erotic magazines still abound in the bookshops of Shanghai. Many youths have been misled by them. Though there was an anti-erotism movement in the Shanghai literary world, yet the result is disappointing.