

with those who are less fortunate. At a time when the people of this country are suffering from drought and famine, surely the Buddhists would do better if they decided to spend all they have to relieve the poor.

Shanghai Noises

OF all the important cities in the world Shanghai is perhaps the most backward in the control of noises. Noises here are caused not because inevitable or necessary for the purpose of lawful pursuits. They have become a joy, a passion, or, what is worst, an insult. Take auto tooting for an example. As it is intended to give warning of an approaching vehicle, it follows that where no possible danger exists, tooting is not at all needed. In most advanced countries, strict municipal regulations are enacted to forbid careless tooting. The London municipal authorities, for instance, have recently instituted procedures to stop motor horning at night in the metropolitan area. Such regulations are beneficial in two ways. First, they eliminate unnecessary noises. Secondly, they call for careful driving. The autoist that uses his horn indiscriminately usually leaves it to others to beware of his approach. So long as he can keep his horn running, he

has fulfilled his duty as a driver and God bless those who stand in his way. That is exactly what the drivers in Shanghai are doing. They simply blast their way through the pedestrians, halting street cars, or other vehicles (and not infrequently on the wrong side of the street) by the continuous screeching of their horns. And what horns they use! The type commonly in use in America is considered too tame for this city, and preference is given to electric horns imported from Europe. When these are set in full capacity, their thrill would make an Egyptian mummy hop out of its resting place. But if the drivers were contented with using these devices but sparingly, no undue amount of mischief would be done. But horn-ing is their second instinct, and no matter whether they are driving fast or slowly, or simply waiting for their turn to fall in line, they toot to the pitch of seventh heaven. Several sections formerly considered as desirable residential sections are simply ruined by the foregathering of large numbers of automobiles at night. Although the Shanghai Municipal Council has maintained a set of regulations prohibiting needless motor noises after midnight, they are hardly enforced. A little supervision may perhaps result in some improvement and satisfy the public cry for nocturnal peace.

A New Life For Students

THE pathetic case of Huang Lai-wu, a student of a certain local university, is a lesson for the youth of today. Because of his love for a dancing hostess and the desire to revenge the apparent wrong done him, he may serve a sentence of no less than three years unless his final appeal to the supreme court should succeed in having justice tempered with mercy.

It appears that Huang had been infatuated with one of the dancers of a local cabaret and had practically lived with her for some three years. On her he had squandered thousands of dollars given him for the pursuit of learning, and as his purse string was coming to an end, the spirit of fancied romance began to wane. The heart of the girl was as hard as the cash she had fleeced of him, and in a moment of despair he procured the services of a third person for the purpose of disfiguring her face with sulphuric acid. By a twist of fate the accessory mistook another dancing partner for the chosen victim, and Huang has to face imprisonment for injuring an innocent party without even the satisfaction of harming the one he had loved so heartily and hated as much.

In the first trial Huang was sentenced to 10 months, but as the result of his appeal the sentence was not revoked but extended to three years. The judge of the appeal court, in pronouncing the heavier penalty, expressed the hope that a longer term in prison may afford Huang an opportunity to meditate upon his shameful past and through meditation to reform himself for a new life. While the final appeal is still pending, we may perhaps refrain from commenting upon the case here. But what-

ever the ultimate outcome may be, Huang is undoubtedly the victim of a social environment for which this community and its leaders are morally responsible.

It would be the height of hypocrisy to pretend that the spirit of romance does not dwell in the hearts of youths of today or of any other age. By proper guidance and counsel it will manifest itself in a wholesome manner, but in the midst of temptation it is likely to expend itself wantonly. In a sense the fate of Huang Lai-wu is not of his own making. A stranger in Shanghai and apparently a young man of intense feelings, he is easily taken advantage of by the artful and enticing lady of the night. One may call it puppy love or even animal passion, but it has ensnared him unawares. His is a case more to be pitied than to be condemned.

In order to prevent the recurrence of similar cases it is incumbent upon the Chinese authorities to eliminate the influences which are apt to lead young men and women astray. And of all such influences none is greater than that exerted by cabarets. Lest our intention should be misconstrued, we would hasten to add that our objection to them is not based on moral grounds. We do not pretend to be the guardians of another's morals, nor do we wish to concern ourselves with others' virtues.

Entirely on practical grounds may one suggest that the students be forbidden to visit cabarets where dancing partners are provided. For one thing, they are too young in experience with the ways of the world to face the temptations offered by the mysteries of life. They are, like Huang Lai-wu, easy preys to the subtlety and

enchantment of those whose sole profession lies in giving nothing of value for the very soul of youth.

From the standpoint of time, the students can hardly afford to visit the cabarets. As a famous Chinese saying goes, every inch of time is an inch of gold. Their main duty to themselves and to those who love and support them is to study and nothing else. Even when the nation was facing the most serious crisis three years ago, the government was willing to dispense with their services so that they might devote all their time to prepare themselves for the great tasks that await them in the future salvation of China. It is indeed disheartening to note that the valuable time thus spared them is now being wasted in a form of dissipation which is injurious both to health and to career. In youth is the time to sow, and the time to harvest one's labors in life is far distant from the students. Knowledge does not come by fits; it demands intelligent and consistent effort which cannot be exerted by the students were they to indulge in night life.

Again from the standpoint of financial resources, the students are not capable of providing for their own amusement and pleasures. Some may come from wealthy families to whom money is of little importance, but for the majority of students their support is made possible only by the struggle and sacrifice of their parents. It is estimated that it takes the yield of 200 *mow* of land to

keep one person in college, and as the result of famine and drought the enrolment in many a university has decreased this school year. Those who are privileged to continue their studies should feel all the happier of the opportunity that is theirs to make the best of life and try to conserve resources for the rainy day that may yet affect their own families. It is a fallacy to contend that college graduates are confronted with unemployment as those without education. It is nearer the truth, in many respects, to say that for the best qualified there is always an opening. The task of a student is to prepare himself, and even if his services are not availed of for one reason or another, he may at least face his own conscience and his elders without a sting.

In view of these considerations it may well behoove the Chinese authorities to devise measures to keep the students from cabarets. It has been proposed that they be required to wear uniforms in and out of schools and that student leaders be appointed to inspect the cabarets to discipline their school mates who may visit them. Though this proposal may not be 100 per cent effective, it may go a long way toward protecting the students from pleasurable pursuits which tax them for time and expense.

Now that the whole nation is turning to a new life, let the students turn a new leaf.

Senator Nye's Spymania

IT is difficult, and perhaps useless, to try to ascertain the cause of Senator Nye's spymania. Nor need one criticise unduly the U. S. senate for permitting one of its members to turn it into an international Scotland Yard or C. I. D. The long series of so-called "sensational disclosures" of a world-wide combine in manufacturing and selling arms and ammunition seems to have given the eminent senator indescribable gratification and enviable notoriety, and he has been led by the momentum of both to venture into spheres altogether unknown to him. One is inevitably reminded of a lovable child who says something naughty without understanding. It sounds "cute" for the first time or two, but it invariably grows more boring each time it is repeated until the rod has to be employed in order not to spoil the child. There is no doubt that Senator Nye's maiden attempts as an amateur sleuth are refreshing and amusing, but there is an end to the richest sense of humor even as there is an end to all good things.

When Senator Nye brought the king of England into the limelight in connection with the "blood brotherhood," he scored two distinct points: He provided a unique topic for parlor gossip, and he acquired thereby an association, however indirect, with royalty. No harm could have been done either to England or to her beloved ruler, because both are too great to be injured by the tactics of a muck-raking politician. He had his fun without doing damage.

It is a different case, however, when he alleged serious charges against a struggling nation like China. Although this country may feel flattered by his generous attention to its affairs, the price he has inadvertently exacted is really too extravagant to be borne. The wheat loan whose proceeds he assumes to have been appropriated in part for the purchase of implements of war is, in the eyes of the Chinese government and its people, the greatest evidence of American faith in China which neither the government nor the people would for any consideration wish to forfeit.

The seriousness with which Nanking has viewed Senator Nye's allegations may be easily fathomed by reference to General Chiang Kai-shek's statement to the press. "These revelations must be probed in a thorough going manner and no stone be left unturned. If these reports should prove to be true, it would have disastrous effect upon the prestige of the Chinese governments."

No sooner had China learned of these so-called "revelations" than the entire government machinery was set in motion for the investigation of graft and misappropriation. The people felt outraged by the national officialdom, and Nanking's hostile critics were quick to seize the opportunity to intensify their destructive propaganda *sub-rosa*. An internal strike might have been precipitated in consequence, and the country thrown into disorder for no fault of its own.