

Traffic is confusing tho, because it moves in the wrong direction for us. Right is left and left is right for traffic.

Transportation was of a wide variety; railroad trains (very modern in type and design) subway-elevateds, surface cars, taxis, oxen drawn vehicles were very common, but horses were few. A few automobiles were gas driven but auto-abbiles, for the most part, were wood and charcoal burners. Little furnace affairs could be seen either on the sides or in the backs of most vehicles, with sheet iron smoke stacks protruding thru the cabs of trucks and passenger cars, spouting gusts of flame and smoke accordingly as the fires were fresh or old. Notable tho was the worn aspect of all rolling stock, safety islands, depots, etc. Floors were literally worn thru, steps, the same, walls, ceilings, platforms, all showed a terrific lack of upkeep.

And everything is built to the scale of Japanese legs. Seats, everywhere, were three to six inches lower than we are used to. Straps and handles reached about to the average American's shoulders. Desks in offices, seats in theaters, which by the way were numerous and huge, everything public and private, is small and definitely on the low size. Unless you thought of it especially everytime you sat down you got the idea the chair wasn't there.

Buildings, stores, office buildings, hotels, shops, etc.....are all modern and what we are used to. There is nothing of the picture-book look about Japan at all. A few Shinto Shrines, now and then an occasional pagoda type building were to be seen after much looking. Kimonos and pagodas were conspicuous by their absence. And strange as it may seem the new, modern buildings withstood the fires and bombs quite well. They are the standing units at the present. Of course where a building, regardless of its type, size or construction, received a direct hit the result was rubble. Several large buildings, one of the department stores in Tokyo, an office building in Yokohama, for example, were gutted thru the top five or six stories. One seven storied department store in Tokyo was gutted thru its top five stories but is doing business. "As usual" on the street floor and the second story.

Japan had two definite classes...those "as had" and those "as had not." The degradation and poverty of the "had not's" shows well in their homes...small one roomed affairs that resemble lean-to's, or sheds, or chicken coops. Their furnishings are meager. The one room was usually partitioned. (Even the extremely poor go for the partitions!). One section would have a make-shift wooden sink, a shelf with a few cups, rice bowls, maybe a platter or two of wood, a water pail and that is all in it. The other half, partitioned off, would have a raised box-like affair, perhaps five feet square, on which were three or four rattan mats, the poor man's Beauty Rest, and nothing else.

But the "has-gots" were different. We saw homes that were show places, like one might see in the Beverly Hills canyons or along Malibu Beach, or the estate sections of any American city. But more than that we got a first hand description from a group of Army officers whose duties were to inspect and examine such places. Some of us were even taken along with some of these officers and saw things first hand. We had the good fortune to get into one of the most luxurious homes in Yokohama. It was quite a sight. Literally was it a series of me-bigger-than-his house. It seems that families clan together in Japan. On this particular estate were four ancestral homes built by the father of the present generation, his father, his father's father, and his father's father's father. The oldest one was definitely on the pagoda, turned up eyes style. The next oldest was bigger and not quite as pagodish. The next less. And the present home is sumptuous.

It is built of re-inforced concrete with steel fire proof doors in every room in the house. Windows are of shatter proof glass separated into four sections, any one of which turns three hundred and sixty degrees so that each one of the four glass panels can be placed at a different angle to catch the