

slightest breeze yet protect anyone sitting near at hand. The floors are all of beautiful wood with parquet designs around the edges. Tile is everywhere in evidence and a large amount of colored glass. Furniture??? Yes and no. Beds are fancy pads. Some have silk and rattan surfaces. Others are all rattan. Pillows are small, hard rolls about as big as a ten cent loaf of bread. Chairs? Everybody squats or sits. Men sit cross legged and the women kneel and fall back on their heels. In the center of the room is a beautiful lacquered table standing some six or eight inches off the floor. Around that are smaller tables, one for each guest and resident. People sit or kneel on fancy rattan mats. Along the walls are what we might call knickknacks but to the Japs they are cupboards, filled with porcelain, china and wooden cups, rice bowls, dishes etc. Each member of the family has his or her own set of chop sticks and an ornate box for keeping them, which is kept in a special place in the cupboard. These are passed out or set out on the little tables like napkins and napkin rings are at home. This particular house had a very beautiful family shrine into which we looked but could not enter. Yes, we took off our shoes! The grounds resembled a beautiful park the center of which was the out door family shrine; a miniature Shinto Shrine with little doors, windows, etc., usable and workable, guarded by four porcelain dogs of rare beauty. Quite a spot.

The people are all small, slovenly, unamilitary, but polite, and willing to answer any and all questions and give directions. Their clothes are clean but old and threadbare. No one, men or women, wear stockings. And for the most part no shoes. They have straw sandals or a cloth topped, rubber soled sandal that separated the big toe from the rest of the foot. Women wear kimonos at home...those of the rich "have got" class, at least. But all wear a Gertie-the-riveter, sloppy, thin materialized ski-suit style slack outfit on the street. Remembering the fact that they squat one can see the need for pants that have a sloppy, droopy appearance. They certainly weren't designed for beauty. Two types of people predominate: the sullen, scowling type, and the giddy, grinning-all-the-time moronic type. Big horn rimmed glasses appear in all the cartoons but they appear on 75% of the men of Japan. All seem to be flat-footed. They don't walk, they shuffle and hump along. More than half the people in the streets wear a wooden affair with two risers on the underside. When a few of them are passing by they sound for all the world like horses galloping: ka-lop, ka-lop, ka-lop. And when they accelerate their speed galloping horses are all in the world you can think of. Lipstick and rouge are much used. Many Japanese women have a cameo tinted skin and rouge well applied gives them a doll, or a window dummy appearance. The women are juvenile and quite flat chested; nothing of the sweater gal about them. Mothers carry their babies in a papoose fashion. It's not the Indian style because the children cling straddled-legged and holding on. We were told that to meet necessity only one style dress, slack, pant, cap, hat, etc., were manufactured. Most people are thin. All are about the same height, men and women. "LITTLE" is the word that applies to them all. We are like giants in their midst.

Mercantile traffic and commerce are definitely at low ebb. There are no such things as corner drug stores, grocery stores, etc. There never were. Department stores were like those at home. Hotels have grand lobbies and peacock alleys lined with little shops but they are like big small town hotels. In NYC, the Imperial or the Grand, the best here, would rate a 3rd or 4th class rating. Neither are there restaurants or cafes on the Main Streets. One huge restaurant, famous with world travelers, in Yokohama, is a shambles now. Dining rooms are extremely simple both as to lighting and decorations. The inevitable SCREEN is ubiquitous. Everybody in Japan apparently wanted to seem important or to hide, it's hard to know which. Offices have screens, homes have them, hotels, dining rooms...you can't go anywhere where you don't find them. Three desks in an office and there would be three screens. Some are paper, some metal, some lacquer, some simple, most ornate.