

JAPAN'S YOUTH FACE FATEFUL CHOICE

'OUT OF THE SHADOW'

AFFLUENCE IN A WOMAN'S WORLD

REBEL BISHOP

WHO WILL MODERNIZE MAN?

A BUCHANAN may modernize the roads, a Beeching the railways. South East England may be planned for and developed. But who will modernize and develop man?

Only you and I can roll away the stone-age living that frustrates the fruitful enjoyment of all man's scientific advances. In a society that has grown up to its responsibility to the individual, the individual must grow up to his responsibility to society, if both are not to be destroyed by nuclear miscalculation.

Our country needs the shock of an Easter experience.

Hate and class war, which can easily lead to violence, are becoming riveted on to our way of life. Men from all classes justify and propagate them. They may be the hall-mark of the forthcoming election.

Now is the time to assail the country's thinking with a better way of thought and life:

—a way which offers Africa unity of mind and purpose, and effective economic planning, as well as troops;

—a way which opens up a revolution of motive for the West that challenges the world of Moscow and Peking;

—a way which gives our youth a passion to satisfy the hungry mouths and the hungry minds of the world, as well as to gain intellectual and technical mastery;

—a way which finds its response through the length and

breadth of our Commonwealth, so that our free association of peoples patterns true unity for a divided world;

—a way which affords us a home life that guarantees the children's security, and builds the backbone of character that is a people's pride.

To achieve this we must needs take a firm, fresh grasp of our fighting Faith. Then our past heritage will become our present revolution. We can and will together explore God's spacious, adventurous plan, which draws out greatness and puts us on history's highroad.

Easter is the time to streamline our lives to do what this hour asks of us. Each can discover the gift of a master purpose for living.

'History's Highroad for Britain' is the theme of an Easter Assembly in London.

Other Assemblies are being held at Easter in Caux, Switzerland, in South Africa and in Japan.

Those who are not ashamed to love their country, to stake all on God's adequacy, and to sacrifice time, talent, thought and money will offer Britain the right choice, and help her make it.

The Easter Cross beckons us to decide to take up this appointed task, from which neither man nor circumstances can deter us till it is finished.

Here is history's highroad to a worthwhile world.

Milan greets 'Through the Garden Wall'

ONE of Europe's foremost theatres was filled with the élite of Milan for Peter Howard's play *Through the Garden Wall* on 20 March.

The *Corriere della Sera* noted that the author is already known to Milan through *The Hurricane* and *The Ladder*. The present play had reached the city, the *Corriere* said, 'after a long and successful tour in Italy'.

'Allegory and symbolism serve Peter Howard well to propose a pact of solidarity between men who live in

hermetically sealed blocs,' the paper commented.

L'Italia, important Catholic Party daily, said, 'In these days when the theatre seems to delight in scandalous plots and "free" language, a company has taken the road with the aim of presenting healthy plots that do not leave a bitter taste at the end of the evening and which do not destroy everything while rebuilding nothing.'

'Three acts scripted with brilliance and all very funny,' said *La Notte*.

AFFLUENCE IN A WOMAN'S WORLD

by ALINE DOLMAN

THE Attorney General, Sir John Hobson, said recently that the affluent society was one of the main causes of Britain's rocketing post-war crime figures. He is one among many who feel that affluence is responsible for much that is wrong in our society today.

I do not believe that affluence is the cause of all evil. Facing facts, affluence looks like being with us for keeps. What we have not been able to do, however, is to adjust our lives to this age of affluence. It has become an end in itself, not a means to an end. And as such it causes disappointment, frustration, cynicism and aimlessness.

Hurrah for washing machines!

Thank heavens for the help women get from washing machines, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and all the other modern appliances for the home. Surely women are not corrupted by having these things which are associated with modern life today?

No, it is not affluence that corrupts, it is the attitude to it that makes or mars a home. One cannot, for example, make a cake with a mixing machine alone. The mixer is a great help, but one still has to work out the recipe, gather the ingredients and combine them in the right order.

Similarly, a home is not created by mechanical devices. If a woman uses them in order to make her home a happy, stable and useful part of society, what a tremendous help they are. But if she uses them to get out of the home and do as little as possible for it, they are not much help. In fact, the home may break up altogether—washing machines, refrigerators and all.

The material things of life alone will never, never satisfy anyone. This basic truth seems to have been forgotten today, resulting in amorous wives and rebellious teenagers with time on their hands and nothing to live for. Teenagers turn to crime for kicks because their own lives are dull and empty.

So often the reason for this is the attitude to life they have absorbed from their homes, where the pursuit of affluence has completely overshadowed those values in life which can never be bought. They need to know the satisfaction of doing a job well and finishing it off. Above all, they need to experience a firmness from their parents which does not let them get away with doing what they want all the time.

'Drooping weeds'

Could not our homes turn out people with guts and character instead of drooping, purposeless weeds? Character is not created out of an easy-going, cutting-the-corners sort of existence. It is born out of the rugged determination to surmount the impossible problem—be

it big or little—and to dare to set the pace in any situation.

How can we reverse the trend of selfishness produced by affluence? One councillor in a large city with a shocking housing problem put endless time into getting certain families into decent homes. He found that once they were satisfied they completely lost interest in others in the city who were living in the appalling conditions they had just come from. They did not even trouble to help with the re-election of this councillor whose main work has been to solve the housing problem in the city.

Women, I believe, could begin to have a new attitude to affluence, and in so doing influence our whole society today. Too much emphasis is put on what a woman can get out of life. There must come the new element of what she gives to it—to her home and family and to everyone she meets.

Out of the groove

Many women are dissatisfied because they think in a little groove which revolves around themselves. I think it is true that in this day and age housework and cooking for their own sake are not enough. The most important thing for a woman is to have an aim that takes her out of herself. When she gets this, she finds that what before has seemed dull and boring takes on an entirely new interest. She realises that an ordinary woman can have a part in bringing back character, adventure and faith to the country.

A young couple I know recently experienced a tragedy in their lives. Their only baby, a few months old, died suddenly. It would have been the easiest thing in the world for the wife to retire into her home in self-pity and grief.

Into every street

But she found the strength to put aside her personal feelings. She opened her home to the neighbours and courageously took an active part in the life of the community. For instance, one evening she and her husband gave a party for a Jamaican nurse who had just finished her training and was leaving the district.

This nurse brought twenty-five of her friends along from the hospital. Neighbours came in and helped and others who could not do this sent food for the meal. It was an evening those nurses will never forget.

This is just one example, but think what this spirit would mean multiplied in every street.

Could not our affluent society, instead of being a stumbling block to progress, be the means to a great end—to provide hope, faith, food, homes and peace for *all* humanity?

JAPAN'S YOUTH FACE FATEFUL CHOICE

by TOSHIO HARA

JAPAN is a country on the move with its bursting energy. Economic recovery and modernisation of life in the last twenty years have amazed the world. T.V. sets and washing machines have spread to every corner of the land. Ninety-eight per cent of the population is reckoned to be well educated.

Democracy has provided a good system of administration but has failed to give the right outlet for this energy.

The present leadership are afraid of what youth will do. They have not forgotten the riots of 1960 which brought down the government.

Mao Tse-tung is urging the youth of China to become the conquerors of the world. He does not ask them to become good technicians, administrators or even good citizens.

What will Japanese youth decide to live for? Whatever they decide will have important effects throughout Asia.

Men like Masahide Shibusawa, great-grandson of the man who launched Japan into the industrial age, have stepped forward and are setting bigger aims before our youth.

'Our gravest national sin,' he says, 'is not to think about our gigantic role. We must lead Japan ahead of history in this second half of the 20th Century. We must give a new theme to humanity.'

With this aim Governor Machimura of Hokkaido asked for 'saturation' of his island—one fifth of Japan's area—with Moral Re-Armament.

Hokkaido's climate—deep snow in winter—makes for hardy people. Hokkaido is a key national defence region, with its volcanic mountains and large plains of sheep and farmland—only eight miles to the Russian-occupied islands of Sakhalin across the frozen straits. The best of Japan's young men and officers are sent for training there.

In two months a force of young Japanese—university students of Waseda and Keio who used to riot against their government—with their play, *Beyond Communism*

to Revolution, have visited twelve main cities and fifteen military camps that house the four Army divisions on Hokkaido. The army looked after them with beds and food and warm clothes. An Air Force plane flew them in 600 miles from Tokyo.

Coal, steel, paper and sugar industries had them in their cities for special shows as guests of the companies concerned.

University and high school students have thronged the play's performances and stayed to discuss for hours after. Some have risen at 4 a.m. in order to talk things over with the cast. Every morning at 7.30 training meetings were held for high school students.

'By 1970 the Security Pact with America will have expired. China, Japanese Intelligence believes, will be in possession of the atomic bomb. It is imperative that by then the total energy of Japan be geared to the moral re-armament of the world. I want to see the money, heart and brain of at least one thousand businessmen mobilized now to this end,' said Shibusawa addressing a Rotary Club in Hokkaido.

Leaders of Japan have begun to take this idea seriously as a basis of our national policy. They built the MRA Asian Centre in Odawara, which provides the training base for 1,000 people at a time and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

From April onwards, training sessions will be held there to enlist 10,000 young Japanese by the time of the autumn Olympic Games in Tokyo. They will be trained to plan and work intelligently for the moral re-armament of the country. The Governor wants to send 1,000 from Hokkaido. The Defence Forces plan to send their best officers and men. The Hokkaido School Board is financing high school boys and girls to attend. Scores of companies want to send their management and labour leaders.

When the nation is as committed to the moral re-armament of the world as Moscow and Peking are to Communism, it will help humanity forward to a new world of peace and plenty.

'Out of the Shadow'

AN Asian student and an Australian have produced a play, *Out of the Shadow*.

Malaysians, Indonesians and Australians took leading parts in the première on 20 March in Melbourne. A Sarawak artist designed its colourful Asian scenes.

Australian aboriginals, Maoris from New Zealand, people of Thailand and India are in the cast of 50.

Co-author Maung Maung Thaung of Burma said that Australia and Asia are meant to take on together the problems of Asia. He asked top T.V. and theatrical

executives at the première to see the play reached everyone in Australia.

Out of the Shadow was sponsored by the Asian Students' Association of the Melbourne Institute of Technology, which has the largest concentration of the 12,000 Asian students in Australia.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission and *The Sun*, Australia's largest daily paper, commented that the play is the first written by an Asian and Australian to bring the two peoples together.

Did you know?

—Tonight's performance of *The Diplomats* will be the 815th in the present series of productions by the Westminster Theatre, London.

—*The Ladder* had its German professional première last month in Kaiserslautern. *Pfälzische Volkszeitung* wrote, 'It should be recommended to all who claim not to have time to go to the theatre. Perhaps they'd then have more time.'

—Victor de Kowa, the actor and film star, is producing *Through the Garden Wall* in German for an extended tour through Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The première will be in Berlin.

—There was an unusual première in mid-ocean earlier this month. *Decision at Midnight*, the film of *Music at Midnight*, was shown three times to passengers on the S.S. United States.

—*Through the Garden Wall* will interrupt its Italian tour for a première in Malta on 4 April.

—In Verona *Through the Garden Wall* is described as the up-to-date *Romeo and Juliet*. Playing in the 'Teatro Nuovo', next to Juliet's balcony, the comedy has made the highest box-office record of its tour.

Trip to Paris

Phyllis Konstam, starring in *The Diplomats*, made a quick trip to Paris last week between performances. She spoke at a luncheon in her honour chaired by Gabriel Marcel, the Catholic philosopher and author.

Marcel declared, 'We are witnessing the concerted effort of certain authors and a certain type of dramatic critic to present a theatre which seems to have taken upon itself the task of degrading man, in showing him in all his abject despair. It is a terribly powerful force of intimidation that is being applied to the public.'

He paid tribute to the passionate fight of Miss Konstam and to 'the noble efforts of the Westminster Theatre whose activity we will have to follow with the closest attention.'

Also about the Westminster

Theatre. *Woman*, with a circulation of over three million, comments: 'Winning Bouquets in a London theatre is an international conference equipment idea: a simultaneous translation service. We call it a boon for foreign visitors without much English—and anyone trying to entertain them. You can watch the play from any seat but hear the dialogue (through lightweight headphones) "acted" in French, German, Italian and Spanish, even Japanese and Arabic. Interpreters hidden in glass cabins work the miracle; you pay an extra 5s. to hear them.'

Warning to parents!

Westminster City Councillor Ken Taylor comments on *The Diplomats* in the *West London Press*: 'It is ideal family entertainment, yet I can see some parents somewhat reluctant to take their teenaged sons and daughters. I can see mums and dads being questioned on points concerning their honesty of character... a very highly polished performance by perfectionists, and the cast and management are to be congratulated.'

Those full pages

How are MRA's full pages paid for? We received the following letter from ten-year old Anne Smith:

At the moment I am making an evening bag out of some material which I was given. Also I am selling some post cards which I bought when I was in hospital. Sometimes I make a few cookies and paint some cards, such as birthday cards, and get well cards. I have also been given some things to sell.

Love, Anne.

P.S. Two of my friends are doing this with me.

The *Sussex Express* reports that the Uckfield branch of the National Union of Public Employees unanimously decided to make a weekly donation to the cost of those pages. 'The secretary expressed his thanks, adding that he hoped such a com-

mendable lead would be followed by other branches of the trade union movement.'

600 newspapers in the United States will carry these pages free of charge.

Halt the Beast

More reviews of *Britain and the Beast*. The *Daily Express*, Lagos, writes: 'Peter Howard is describing his own country. But any thinking person must see the same symptoms everywhere. Much can be learnt from the situations he describes so frankly. For he has faith in the future—if we have the courage to face the facts of the present. It is a battle-cry which calls Halt! to leaders and led and summons them to a new path—a path of character in the home, school and cabinet meeting; a path of social and economic justice where no man rests content to have too much while others have too little.'

The editor writes in the *Royal Air Force Quarterly*: 'This is a forthright assault on the decline of our national characteristics. The author does not spare his punches and his challenge is startling.'

The New Morality is reviewed in *Duckett's Register*—the 'News and Views of Catholic Books'. Rev. Vincent Rochford describes it as 'a plea for the decencies of existence which do in fact find an echo in the hearts of the great mass of ordinary folk.'

Rebel Bishop

One of our subscribers writes in the *Manchester Evening News*:

There once was a bishop who said:
'God the Father is dated and dead.
There's no person up there
Who listens to prayer,
Let's worship our sex life instead.'

God the Father replied, 'Who are you
To say that I'm finished and through?
You are paid a large fee
To represent me.
And that's what I wish you would do.'

E.G.N.