

in flow, depending on rainfall. During heavy rains (generally associated with typhoons), flooding is a serious problem, and there have been a number of disasters of national order, particularly since the destruction of the forests has expedited runoff. The bulk of the rain falls in July and September; in June we passed many rivers which, for lack of rainfall, had become a series of disconnected pools in a sandy waste. From the air, empty riverbeds were more in evidence than blue water.

"A feature of the Korean landscape, whether from the air or road, is the large number of graves. It had been the practice in earlier times for the families of a deceased person (and, in particular, when he had been the head of a family) to consult a geomancer to determine a suitable location for the grave. A fee was charged for this service, the main purpose of which was to find a spot where the deceased would be happy. If those who survived the deceased should subsequently encounter any ill fortune, the chances were that this was because the ancestor was not happy where he was buried and a reburial would be ordered. For this reason, the graves were invariably in the choice locations, more often than not taking out of cultivation valuable and scarce arable land. The result was so serious that the Government has attempted to stamp out the practice and to compel internments in approved cemeteries.

### **Cheju Island**

"The bulk of Korea consists of sedimentary rock. The island of Cheju is an exception. This island, about 115 miles south of the southwestern tip of Korea, is of recent volcanic origin. It provides excellent pasturage land, and offers a good location for a profitable livestock-breeding industry. The original volcano (Mount Hanla) rises to a height of 1,950 meters, the slopes being green and lush. All land above 600 feet is common land for use by the inhabitants for grazing their cattle, pigs and sheep. The character of the rock and soil determine the character of agriculture on the island. The scoria-type base means that water runs through so that wet rice is virtually impossible to grow. The main crop is sweet potatoes, which six factories convert to alcohol and starch. The governor described to us a 20-year development programme for the island based on livestock, tourism, semi-tropical fruit cultivation, and fishing. There is much to be done as, while the essentials are all present, techniques are archaic. For example, 28,000 women earn a living diving off the coast for abalone. Shortage of fresh water is a problem only likely to be solved by expensive catchment-area construction or by a desalination process.

"While we saw no evidence of starvation in Korea, it is clear that the great mass of people live a marginal existence. Such a situation is responsible for a total absence of waste. If the streets are free from waste paper, it is because it is all being picked up and re-pulped. Every scrap of wood is utilized. Bullock carts, which are a common means of conveyance in Seoul and throughout the country, are equipped with metal scrapers to collect any manure that might be dropped *en route*. Once, when we stopped for sandwiches and beer along the