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JAPAN IN WAR TIME.



IN the emergence of Japan from the obscurity of ages to a place in the very forefront of civilization is verified, as has seldom been verified before, the prediction, "A nation shall be born in a day." Not merely in the art of war, although that unhappily is the criterion by which scientific progress is largely measured, but in the arts of peace and industry the progress of Japan is remarkable. It is to Japanese bacteriologists that medical science owes the discovery of some of the most deadly bacilli of disease and the anti-toxins and therapeutic agents by which they can be overcome. In marine and civil engineering the Japanese have little to learn from the very foremost nations of Europe.

In educational science and methods they have adopted the most approved principles of Western learning and pedagogy, and have given them an adaptation to their own needs which makes their universities and colleges among the best in the world. Every village has its school, and in literacy Japan is ahead of some of the oldest nations of Europe. Austria, Italy, Spain, and especially Russia, are far behind this new-born nation of the East in ability to read and amount of reading matter which its people absorb.

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Their military prowess has fairly startled all Europe. The range and precision of their artillery fire, the tremendous force of their high explosives, the high strategy exhibited in the field, their steadiness under fire, the valour and reckless daring of these pigmy troops, seem all the greater by contrast with their colossal Muscovite antagonists, especially with the famous Cossacks, whose name and fame have been a word of terror to the nations. The scientific skill and advanced humanitarian character of their Red Cross and ambulance department have won the admiration of even their antagonists. In banking and finance they have little to learn. They have accomplished immense internal improvements, railway construction, and the like, with a less national debt than any nation in Europe. The parliamentary methods and system of responsible government of Japan shows her not only incomparably ahead of her colossal Russian antagonist, but abreast of the very foremost nations of the world. And yet but fifty years ago it was a hermit nation almost like the Koreans of a decade ago, or the Thibetans of to-day.

The Medical Record, of New York, one of the world's foremost scientific periodicals, has this to say about the hygienic methods of the Japanese, to which they in large part owe their physical and mental predominance: