

two places are on almost the same parallel of latitude. This is, of course, only one of the many causes producing differences of climate between one part of Japan and another. The reader will readily understand that a long narrow strip of island territory, beginning just north of the Tropics and ending not far short of the Arctic circle, must of necessity offer an almost infinite variety of climates. It is as hard to characterise the climate of Japan as it is to describe in a few words the chief characteristics of its people.

Another result of the gulf streams, and especially of the cold stream flowing down from the north, is to bring immense quantities of excellent fish into Japanese waters. The extreme importance of the fishing industry to Japan will be understood when it is realised that the fisheries give occupation to about 900,000 families, or over 3,000,000 individuals, amounting to about 15 per cent. of the whole population; that the 3,000,000 fishermen require 420,000 boats for the purposes of their industry, and that the average annual product of the fish taken is 477,399,173 yen, or, in English money, £47,739,917. Fish is considerably cheaper in Japan than it is in England, so that these items would need to be increased considerably in order to make a good comparison with our British industries. The Japanese is, in the main, a fish eater both by religion and by inclination; the fish which he cannot use for eating is put on his field as a fertiliser, and the fishing population along the coast not only occupy themselves with fishing, but reap a good harvest from the seaweed and other marine products which are used sometimes for food, sometimes as fertilisers, sometimes, as with coral or pearls, for articles of dress and ornament. Another marine industry is the manufacture of salt, which is almost entirely obtained by evaporation from brine, there being no rock-salt in the country. Salt is not, however, so important a factor in Japanese cooking as it is in ours.

The whole of the Japanese Archipelago is mountainous. The two southern islands of Kyushu and Shikoku have ranges radiating from a central point in all directions to the coast and forming a number of small districts cut off from one another