

as often as possible, is well known to all foreign residents in Japan. For how often have we not, when asking for our man Mittamura, or our maid Saku, been met by the stereotyped reply, which is supposed to explain all absences without leave. "He or she is away taking a bath."

The Japanese soldier has at any rate ample opportunities, in his home in peace time, of indulging to the full in the cleanly habits of his country.

Now, passing with a mere reference the comfortable buildings used as tailor's shops and bootmaker's shops, where trained soldiers under certificated master tailors and master cobblers were making excellent clothing and boots for their comrades, we will proceed to the Quarter master's Stores, or rather to the series of Quarter master's stores. For there were three separate storehouses for the three battalions, and another independent regimental store for the whole regiment.

It was in these storehouses, wooden two storied buildings, that my admiration was excited more than by anything I had previously seen. And this was not so much by their cleanliness and convenience, their admirable arrangement or their excellent system, as by something beyond all this which instantly forced itself upon my notice. For it was vividly borne in upon me that, even in the profoundest peace, the Japanese army is nevertheless ready to take the field at a moment's notice. That is to say provided that all the other regiments are kept up to the standard of the 3rd Regiment of the 1st Division. While the Battalion storehouses contained everything required in peace time, it was the regimental storehouse wherein was collected, ticketed and numbered, everything that would be wanted on the outbreak of war.

There was here ready a complete field equipment, clearly marked with each man's name, for every man, whether at present serving with the colours or borne upon the books of the reserves. Not an article was wanting from the service kit for each of the 3,000 soldiers who would be called upon to take the field with their corps.

Upon the regiment being called upon for service, all required would be for the men to return their ordinary equipment into their separate battalion stores. Then they could be marched up, company by company, to the general regimental store, where every man's things are arranged waiting for him.