



Impressions of Japan

Unusual sights and tantalizing smells often overwhelm the travelers of far off places, but differences between East and West made the most lasting impression of the cruise.

Japan lends herself easily to this portrayal of contrast. A wooden temple at Meiji Shrine, revered by age itself, is humbled by sweeping concrete designs at the Olympic palisade across the street. A mother, kimono clad from pastel parasol to wooden shoes, walks a daughter, Westernized. Out over the moats and grey stone walls from the Royal Palace gather Japan's children to learn the new sound, or exercise English with tourists; the intelligent, broadminded, knowledge seeking students who are the children of the industrial machine of Japan. On Honesha, near the urban areas, it seems as if all of Japan migrates daily, motoring, pedaling, or by commuter train. But a short ride away from the cosmopolitan centers, the railroad tracks follow their bed over uniformly terraced farms and paddies that quilt the countryside in patches of tilled brown and flooded green.

And further down the line from Tokyo the train stops at Yokosuka, starting weary feet back towards shipboard surroundings.

