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From "H. Ec." to Geisha Girls and Russian Refugees
Sarah Field's Experiences in Japanese Schools and Russian War Work

By JEANETTE BEYER

But not all Miss Field's time was spent in language school. There were many walks through those narrow, tortuous streets, and visits to those "funny, brown windows" of open-fronted shops, where the mysteries and splendor of the Orient were laced before her—brilliant silk kimonas, with strange Japanese, characters and symbols which told stranger stories in their embroideries; and lacquer, old teakwood, and jade in many unusual forms. Then there were missionary meetings and the church, where she met the wonderful people with whom she was soon to work.

And soon came the invitation to the Emperor's garden party.

On the day of this party Miss Field found herself with her language school friends awaiting the arrival of the Emperor.

"Then came the stirring strains of Kimigaya, and the gold-braided footman at the corner set his patent leather pumps together and elevated his chin. Around the corner came two gayer footmen—heralds, I suppose—and then all alone walked the Emperor. His frock coat blew wide in the wind, as he kept his calm, interested face turned toward his guests as he reviewed them. As he passed, feminine heads were bowing, and mine did, too, tho my eyes were looking from under the edge of my hat as hard as ever they could. I have a memory of a slender, erect figure, a pleasant, alert face crossed by a big moustache, and iron-gray hair.

"Three pages behind followed the Empress, in a European dress of pale green and a broad hat and feathers of the same shade. An older woman in deep lavender stood along just behind the Empress, the Queen, perhaps. All the women walk as if they were trying to fall uphi, as they have to walk to keep on the zori and geta that have only strings to hold them. The rest of the women in the procession walked fairly green or purple, with sleeves both wide and long enough to reach to the knees, spread open to show the lining of pink or blue, and under that, scarlet silk divided skirts, beneath which scarlet slippers to match popped in and out. Their hair was tied at the nape of the neck and held down their backs. A few khaki-clad soldiers marched with these gayly dressed ladies, and helped to make it the gorgeous sight it was."

Into all this plendor and beauty of Old Japan came the call of the Red Cross to help in war-ridden Russia. And so struggles with strangeness began all over again.

Now Sarah Field is no longer a fanciful Japanese lady, a Russian dietitian, nor even a foreign school teacher. For (Continued on page 16)
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the present she is a plain American, an I. S. C. graduate, living in the United States. She recently visited Ames, addressing the Middle Western Congregational Woman's Missionary society, coming here from Cleveland, where she had attended a similar meeting.

This winter she will remain in the States studying dietetics in some American University, not yet decided upon, and doing research work in Japanese foods so that when she returns to Kobe in the summer she can tell all those little "sat-in-haired, velvet-cheeked" homemakers how we do it in America.

Ervilla Masters is teaching home economics in the National Bible Training school in Des Moines.

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