

Tsingtao at the time of writing states that Mr. Yeh Chu-tsang disclosed to the reporters there that Mr. Wang's health had greatly improved and it is hoped that a solution may soon be found to every problem (一切總可望有辦法). So, too, we hope.

Interesting Experiments In Shansi

IN the first years of the republic, Shansi used to be hailed as the model province, but that title has long passed to other provinces, and in the last few years Shansi has been faring none too well. It is hard to expect the warlords to reduce the size of their troops without outside compulsion, but the Shansi military actually did that last year, without Nanking's order, on account of lack of money. Shansi merchants used to control the finances of the country, but today it is the Chekiang bankers who do that. Shansi is in need of money, yes, in need of money even to buy its own products. This led General Yen Shih-shan to issue 300,000 dollars' worth of "coupons", with which the people may buy the native products. The coupons appeared on the market on August 1, and are of three denominations: \$1.00, 10 cents, and 20 cents. They are issued by a cooperative *hong* organized to push the consumption of native goods and are worth their face value in buying from any of the firms and factories that have joined the cooperative *hong*. In other words, it is paper money issued without metallic security, and good only for buying certain commodities from certain firms and factories ranging from flour mills, match factories, iron foundries, automobile repair shops, printing establishments, electric power houses, to manufacturers of woolen fabrics, furriers, salt sales depots, and provision dealers of almost every description. In fact, it was first planned that these firms and factories accept from August 1, nothing but the coupons, but, as it was feared that this would cause confusion and misunderstanding, it was finally decided that in the first month of the experiment, both money and coupons are to be accepted. After that period of time, however, coupons will be the only medium for purchases from these firms and factories' sales depots. Closely connected with the issue of these coupons is the barter system which has now been arranged by General Yen's deputy with the Chekiang authorities for the exchange of the products of the two provinces. Negotiations are also being made with other provinces, such as Kiangsu, Honan, Hupei, and Hunan. The same basic idea lies behind the barter system as behind the issue of the coupons—to encourage the exchange and consumption of commodities, without the employment of silver dollars or banknotes issued on their security. It is of course too early to judge these experiments. It would probably be safe to say that a good deal of their success depends on the skill with which they are handled, especially the coupons. They may have been issued with the idea of supplementing the silver dollars, and as such the experiment may be styled as inflation without devaluating the dollar. And if it is managed with care and skill, it may come to have a fixed valuation in relation to certain daily necessities such as flour, rice, or fabrics; and as such it may even be preferred by the wage owners or salaried men. If the experiment proves successful and the authorities succumb to the temptation of issuing unlimited number of the coupons, then it too can become devaluated like

unsecured paper money. At any rate, it is an interesting experiment well worth watching.

Introducing The "T'ien Hsia Monthly"

TO achieve international good-will, nations of the world should cultivate mutual, cultural understanding. To this task, *The T'ien Hsia Monthly*, which makes its bow to the public today, is avowedly dedicated. To quote the words of Mr. Sun Fo, who contributes a foreword to its first issue: "Culture traffics in ideas. It has no national boundaries, it enriches itself just as much by what it gives as by what it takes. A Hottentot can be as interesting in his cultural contribution as an average educated European. Culture has always maintained an open-door policy. There is only one condition for entry—the humility to learn. . . . As a Chinese-run organ, naturally *The T'ien Hsia Monthly* will attempt more at an interpretation of China to the West, than of the West to China. But as its name implies (*T'ien Hsia*: the Universe), anything that is of vital interest to men and women all over the world comes under its scope." Each number of the monthly will thus contain at least one article by a non-Chinese, on a subject not necessarily about China. In the first number, a most thought-provoking article on Mongolia by Mr. Owen Lattimore is to be found, together with many contributions from the Chinese, among which we may note "The Real Confucius" by Dr. John C. H. Wu, "Racial Trait In Chinese Painting" by Mr. Wen Yuan-ning, and "Tragedy in Old Chinese Drama" by Mr. Chien Chung-shu. Western readers, no less than the Chinese, will be interested to know that this number contains also the first instalment of the Unpublished Letters of D. H. Lawrence to Max Mohr, who was a great friend of the novelist, and is at present practicing medicine in Shanghai. Finally, those who are curious to learn about old Chinese family life will be delighted in reading Dr. Lin Yutang's translation of *Fu Shen Lu Chih* (泛生六記: Six Chapters of a Floating Life), of which the first chapter is entitled "Wedded Bliss." Published under the auspices of the Sun Yat-sen Institute for the Advancement of Culture and Education, the magazine will appear each month in the year, June and July excepted. Its editorial board consists of Dr. John C. H. Wu (Managing editor), Mr. T. K. Chuan, Dr. Lin Yutang, and Mr. Wen Yuan-ning (Editor-in-Chief)—nearly all of whom, we are proud to say, are connected with *The China Critic*. Judging by the high standard the editors have sought to establish in its first number, we have every reason to think that it will be read eagerly and received with acclaim both here and abroad.

Abbot Chao Kung

WE hear Abbot Chao Kung will soon be leaving China — for what destination we don't know. Chao Kung has always been a man of mystery. He came here with a reputation wrapped up in mystery, and now he is leaving us with a mystery around him as impenetrable as ever. Perhaps, nobody is to blame for this, least of all himself. He has been dogged, since the beginning of the Great War, with all kinds of rumors, some decidedly nasty, some immaterial to anybody else but to a man of his reputation. He has been accused of all sorts of things, but nothing has been definitely proved against