This is the first of a series of articles by the budding young commentator on world affairs. John C. Brennan.

THE INSIDE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE WORLD
What Japan needs most, next to the regular supply of necessary food stuffs, is a modern sanitary system. It could also use a few doctors and modern clinics. General MacArthur is a wise man. On the whole, he has decided to let the Japanese people work out their aftermath of war problems. But what they have to work with is pitifully small.

Winters in Japan are cold. My wonderment at the people being able to walk around in freezing, damp, penetrating, cold weather without an overcoat has ceased. I know the answer now. They really stack on the underclothes. Perhaps two suits of "longies" is not unusual together with numerous other garments over which is worn their street clothes. It accounts for the chunky appearance of the people in the winter time.

I see few fat women in Japan. The over-all kimono, of course, covers many of nature's errors. But even so, it is difficult to camouflage fat. The skinny lass gets an appearance break through the kimono. Her bony structure is well concealed and emphasis is placed on a pretty face. Next to an all-out disease epidemic, I guess inflation is the worst disaster to face a nation.

China is now rocking from the evil of this. Japan is suffering terribly. SCAP's refusal to recognize more than a 15 Yen to 1 American dollar rate of exchange, does not prevent the actual 100 Yen to one American dollar from being the true state of affairs. Formerly, a four Yen to the dollar rate existed. Scarce
products bring unbelievable prices. One carton of cigarettes will draw a price of 500 to 800 Yen. The sale or gifts of American products to Japanese is illegal. But it exists nevertheless. The Occupation Forces are, on the whole, a well behaved lot. The Colonel who took his diamonds home unannounced, is quite the center of conversation here. He was formerly the custodian of the Bank of Japan. The misuse of a position of trust is inexcusable according to most comment here. It was said by a highly indignant, regulation exhausted, civilian War Department employee the other day, "The only occupied peoples of Japan are the American civilian employees." He may have something there. The Emperor is still top guy in Japan and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Of course, General MacArthur is the center of admiration by the people who never cease to recognize power and force as a near God-like quality. And because of the General's over-all kindness to them, the people view him with a deep reverence. All Japanese people are wondering when the Allied Powers will set a reparations figure and allow them to start paying the bill with unrestricted trade with the other nations of the world. They went down for the count of nine but they're getting back on their feet now. Militarism in Japan is out. The people have a bad taste in their mouth when you speak of their Army and Navy. Now, they want only a stable yen and the right to work for a living wage together with sufficient food
available for purchase. In high school Economic classes I early learned the fundamental principle that scarce items of necessity create high prices. Potential purchasers bid against themselves. Whether the money used be the dollar, pound or yen, it is worth only what it can be traded for in goods. The only correction for inflation is a plentiful supply of necessary goods. When the scale is then tipped back the other way - well, that's anticipating, isn't it? . . . . One wonders where all the Japanese automobiles come from. Some are charcoal burners but the vast majority are gasoline eaters. I wonder where they get the gas. . . . . A War Department civilian employee got 30 days at hard labor and/or (I'm not sure which) a $100 fine for striking a Japanese national here. . . . . A top meal (not too good either) with saki during the repast costs about 300 Yen. That was a good monthly wage during the war and before. Japanese employees are limited to 500 Yen per month income. Amounts earned in excess of this are banked by employers under Government regulation. There is an additional allowance for the family, but very small. No person can live on their salary. Knowing this, the Japanese government does nothing to correct it. Thus, more black market dealing. Many families have sold nearly everything they own to keep alive. . . . . The bet is 2 to 1 that the Defense at the International Military Tribunal here exhausts six months in presenting their side of the case. The President of the Tribunal, Sir Wm. Webb, might like to take
a little of that. . . . At the Emperor's Imperial Hunting Lodge in Chiba Prefecture, near Tokyo, a group of American guests were initiated in the strange sport of hunting ducks with a net. The ducks are kept in small houses from which run narrow canals about six feet deep and four feet wide. As the ducks are released from the house into the canal they fly up and are netted by the "hunter". Since I was one of the guests I can truthfully say catching the birds was purely incidental to my friend falling into the canal after a tasty dinner of duck livers and too much hot sake. . . . .

No Occidental can really understand the Oriental mind unless he was raised here. Sometimes I strongly doubt the wisdom of trying to judge these people by our western standards of right and wrong. One Japanese soldier told me the hardest part of his days in the Army was the training period when he was struck and beaten frequently by his superiors. When I asked him if he was angry at them he said "Oh no, that's part of the Army regulations. We are being hardened for combat." . . . . Authentic, inside information reveals that near civil war threatened Japan when the Army and Navy were at ends on the advisability of warring with America. The Navy thought it highly inadvisable but yielded its position to prevent internal strife after the Emperor asked for cooperation. . . . . I dined with the Emperor's brother, Prince Takamatsu, the other night. At a semi-clandestine meeting, made necessary through social customs of Japan, I enjoyed his wit and views on current matters. He is an engaging man, about 42, with a dapper confident air about him.
He doesn't smoke or drink and held a naval commission of Captain during the war. . . . Many a temporary romance is blooming between Japanese females and Americans. The utter subservience of the Japanese girls is a never ending source of wonderment to Occidentals. They call the American men "Butterflies" because they date different American girls. Over here, custom and tradition dictate only one romance at a time. . . . One of the favorite Japanese dishes is seaweed. It is dried and resembles nothing I've seen at home - or tasted. Rice is the bread of Japan. I have never found a Japanese who said he disliked rice. It is always served at the end of each meal. Bread is called "pan". It is said to have retained this name from the Spaniards who introduced it to Japan. . . . Japan is filled with dolls and toys. Most popular among the current toys is a miniature Jeep, quite skillfully made. Women change their kimono colors to match the seasons of the year and their age. No woman will admit this year they are 42. This would mean she was born in 1905 which makes her a "hinoe-uma" (fire horse) and "wild as a horse, extremely dangerous and likely to kill her husband and ruin his family." "Hinoe-uma" year comes every 60 years and they say the majority of Japanese believe the traditional story. Actually, many suicides have resulted from this belief and many a fair lady lays her husbandless life at the door step of this tradition. Even those men who scoff at the story usually found a good reason to marry with other than a "hinoe-uma" - kind of like not walking under the ladder, you know?