

from one another, was such as I have never seen approached elsewhere in any form of agriculture.

Amongst these crops were the rice-fields, usually small areas surrounded by low narrow banks of mud, made by the laborious process of placing lumps of mud side by side with the hands. These enclosures are turned into shallow ponds by letting water in, if the level suit, or by pumping it in by means of a small portable treadmill or an undershot wheel worked by the stream of the river, if the level is above that of the river. The field surface is worked up by means of a buffalo and plough into a pond of mud, and on this the rice is transplanted. The seed is previously sown broadcast in a small special plot, from which the birds are kept off by a scarecrow, as in England, but here the rice-straw rain coat and large mushroom-shaped hat of the Japanese peasant are represented.

The distance to Kioto from Osaka, 32 miles, is run by the jinriksha coolies in from five to six hours. In the hotel at Kioto I had my first experience of a Japanese house. They are all alike in being entirely built of wood and paper. The partition walls are all of light lath lattices, fitted as sliding panels and covered with a tough tissue paper. Even these walls, such as they are, often do not reach up as high as the ceiling, so that everything that goes on or is said is plainly heard over the whole range of rooms upon each floor.

If care is not used, one is apt in stretching oneself at night to push a hand or finger through the wall into the next room. A square of paper and some rice starch put matters all right again, however. One must always take off one's boots in going into a Japanese house, and at theatres and restaurants they are ticketed, and a check is given for them as for umbrellas and coats with us.

The hotel was on the side of a range of hills overlooking the capital. Kioto, the Holy City of Japan, is by far the most beautiful city I have ever seen when thus viewed from the overhanging hills. Everywhere are groves of Cryptomerias surrounding the holy places and monasteries, and above the groves in all directions rise the high temple-roofs and porches.

A great exhibition was going on at the time of our visit. It was amusing in going round this to see the tables completely turned upon the English. One of the exhibits consisted of a couple of rooms with one side removed to show the interior. One of the rooms was fitted up as an English bed-room, and the other as a drawing-room, both completely furnished. These were very popular sights. The Japanese are intensely fond of strange sights, and when the English first settled at Yokohama long journeys were made to look at them and their