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JAPAN
IN PICTURES

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Nihon Kōtsū Koshū

JAPAN

IN PICTURES

JAPAN TRAVEL BUREAU

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LOOKING AT JAPAN

What is the secret of Japan's charm and attraction from the viewpoint of foreign tourists?

The question is answered, in part at least, by the pages of select photographs contained in this volume.

The fascinating features of this far-famed tourist land may be roughly classified under the categories of (1) natural scenic beauty, (2) colorful festivals and ceremonials preserved intact from the old feudal days, some of these being of immemorial antiquity, (3) exhibitions, entertainment, etc., characteristic of the indigenous art and culture of the people, (4) and last but not least, the facilities and opportunities for sports and amusement boasted by this at once old and most up-to-date nation in the Orient.

The scenic beauty of Japan you will have to see for yourself to appreciate to the full. No pen or brush has ever been able to do it full justice. One peculiar feature about Japan is that the four seasons are very clearly and distinctly defined, the year being divided into periods of almost equal length. The spring is characterized by the cherry in April, summer by the gorgeous fireworks in the cool of the evening, autumn by the crimson foliage of the maple, and winter by the snow-clad temples and pagodas so prominently figuring on Japanese Christmas cards.

Characteristic festivals and ceremonials, some of which may seem to foreigners peculiar and quaint, fill the Japanese calendar from January 1st to December 31st. Some of the most famous festivals like those of Kyoto draw pilgrims from all parts of the country, affording universal opportunity for popular merry-making and devotional worship.

Even the least informed of our overseas friends may have heard something about the Kabuki, Noh Drama, Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement, etc., illustrative of Japan's artistic and cultural heritages. These are practically on perpetual display in Japan.

As for the popular forms of entertainment, such as dancing, modern plays, cinemas and concerts, those in the big modern cities like Tokyo and Osaka may fairly rival those of the world's greatest capitals. Add to these the traditional Japanese cuisine, the exciting night life, and numerous other attractions peculiar to Japan, and you will see why she has become the greatest Mecca of tourists in the Far East.

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Who has not heard of Mount Fuji and longed for a glimpse of its snow-crowned summit? The peerless peak is here seen from the pine-clad seashore of Miho.

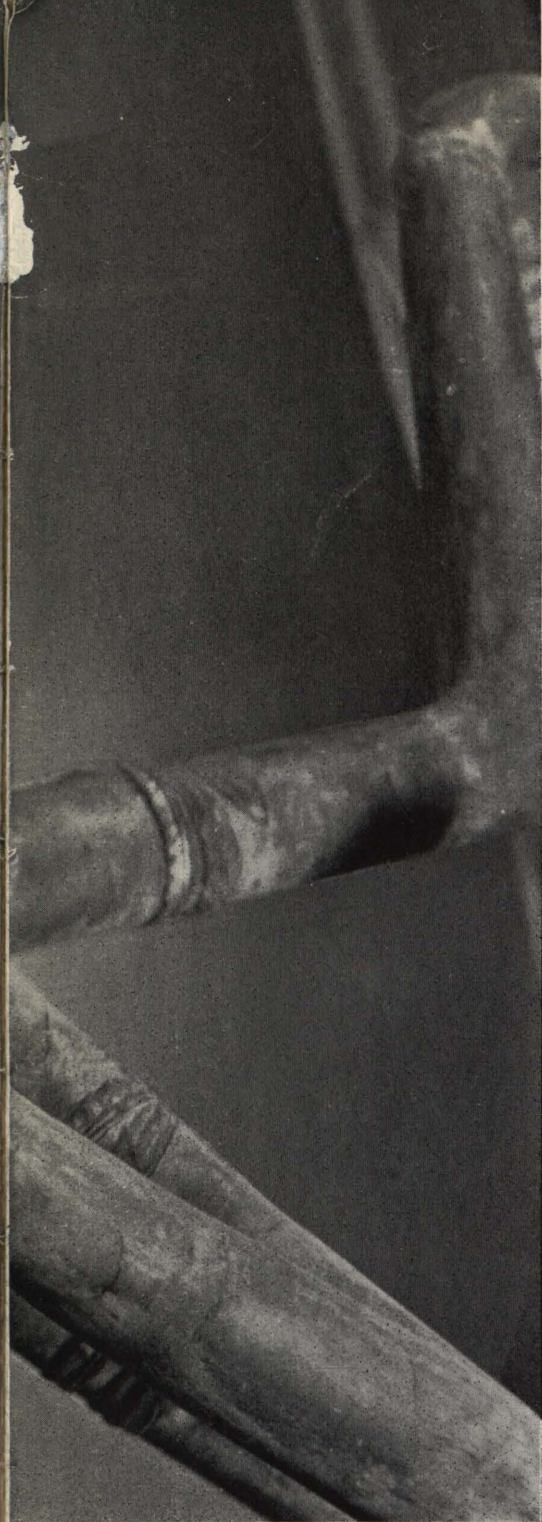




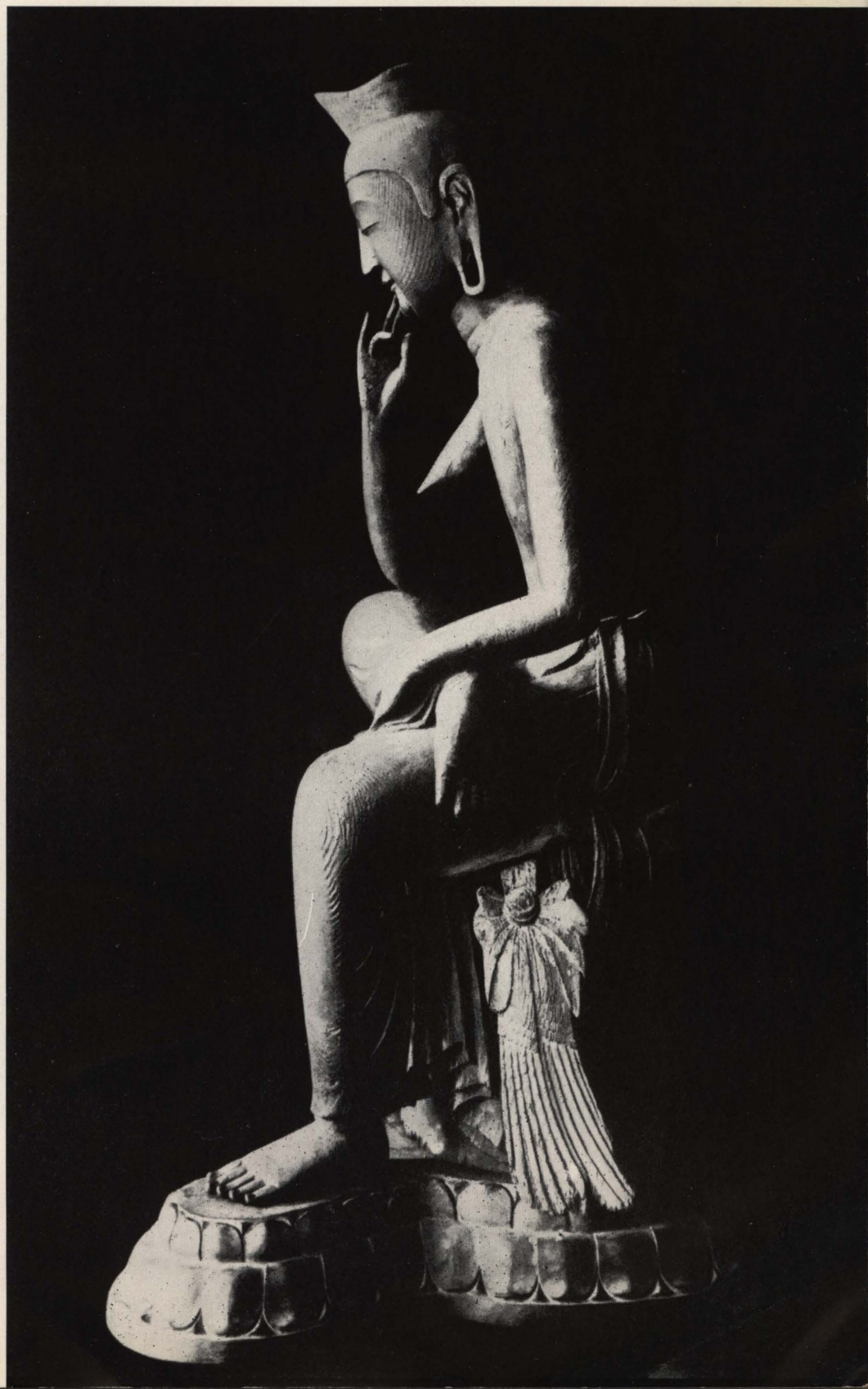
"Oibane-Kobane", or battledore and shuttlecock, is a favored outdoor game of the daughters of Japan at New Year. Just how the game, which is western, came to play such a part in the New Year's celebration is unknown. At any rate, three centuries ago, it is believed, "hagoita" or battledores were first used as New Year decorations. The more expensive battledores are highly artistic affairs, decorated on one side with a colorful, embroidered portrait of a famed actor or actress. The back, which is used to whack the elusive shuttlecock, is left unadorned.



The art of sculpture, previous to the Meiji era, was practically confined to the carving of Buddhist images. This photograph of one of the Buddhist deities in Kofukuji Temple at Nara graphically illustrates the strength and character of the work of the craftsmen of old Japan.



The image of Miroku Bosatsu in Koryuji Temple, Kyoto.







The women of Yase and Ohara villages in the suburbs of Kyoto carry loads on their heads. They vend their wares mostly in the streets of Kyoto.

Japan has 14 pro baseball teams, grouped in two leagues,—the Pacific League and the Central.

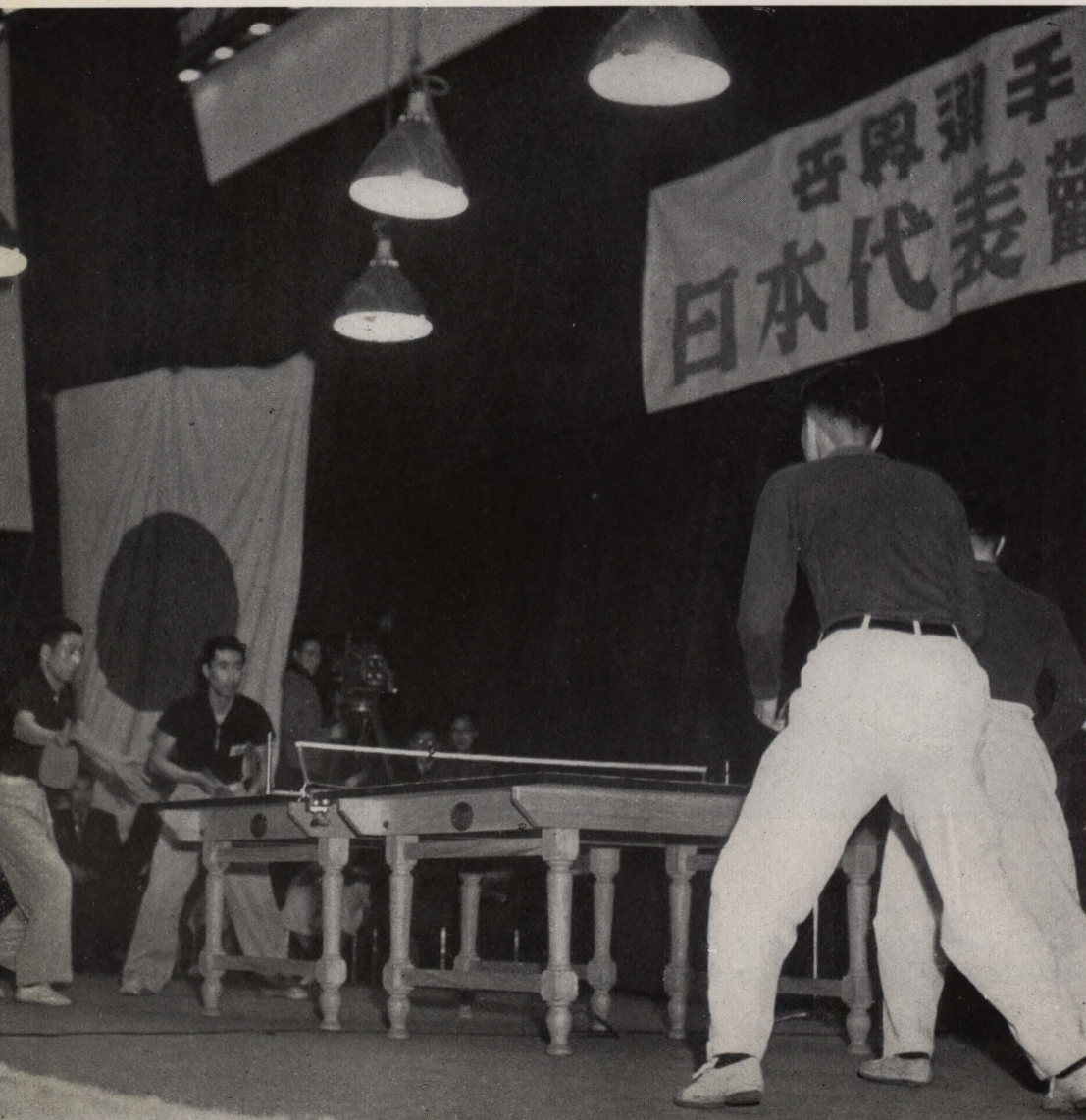
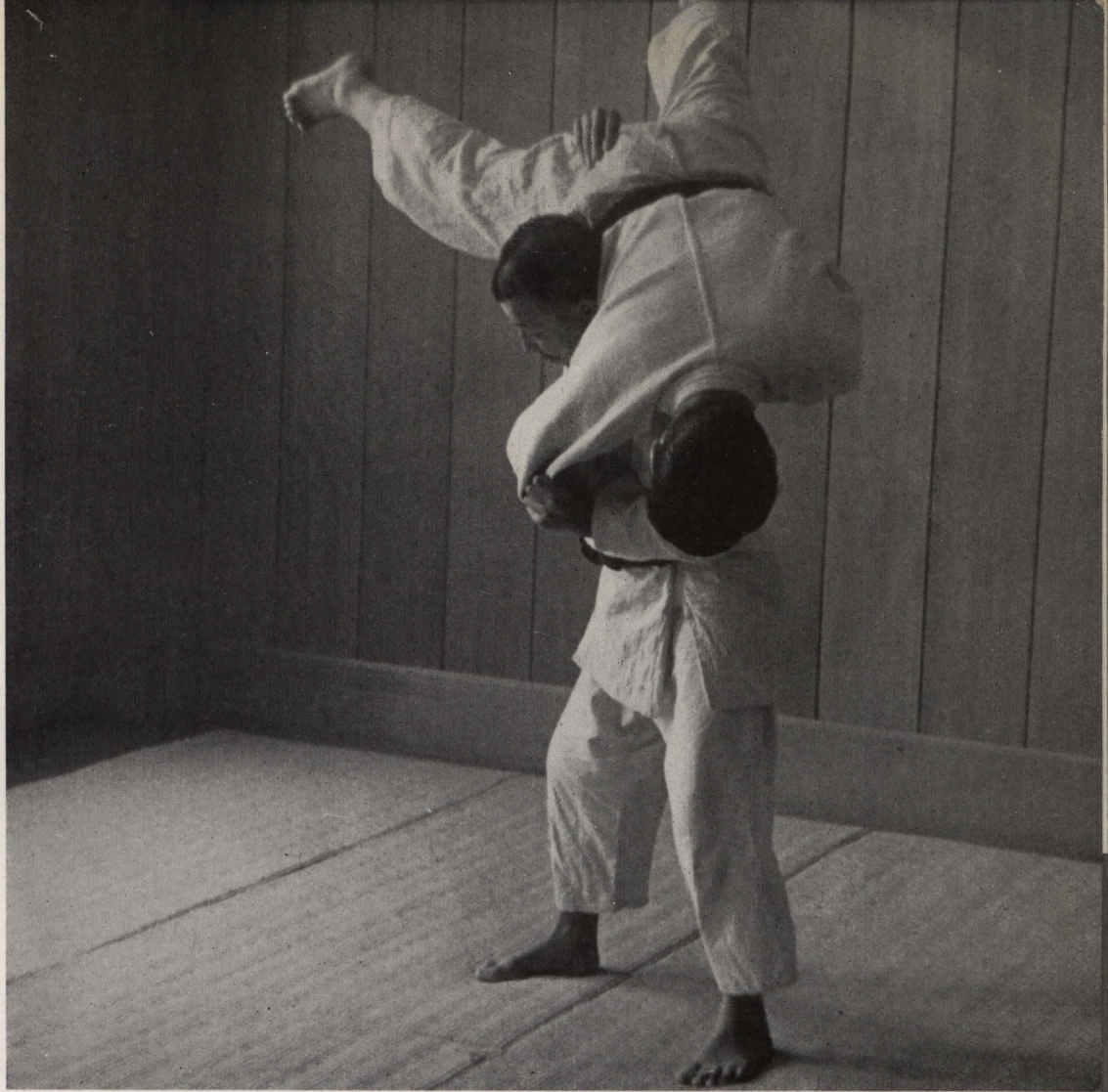


Table tennis in Japan has a history of half a century. In recent international matches, the Japanese players demonstrated a very high standard of ability.

"Judo", or the Japanese art of self-defense, is gaining popularity even in Europe and America.

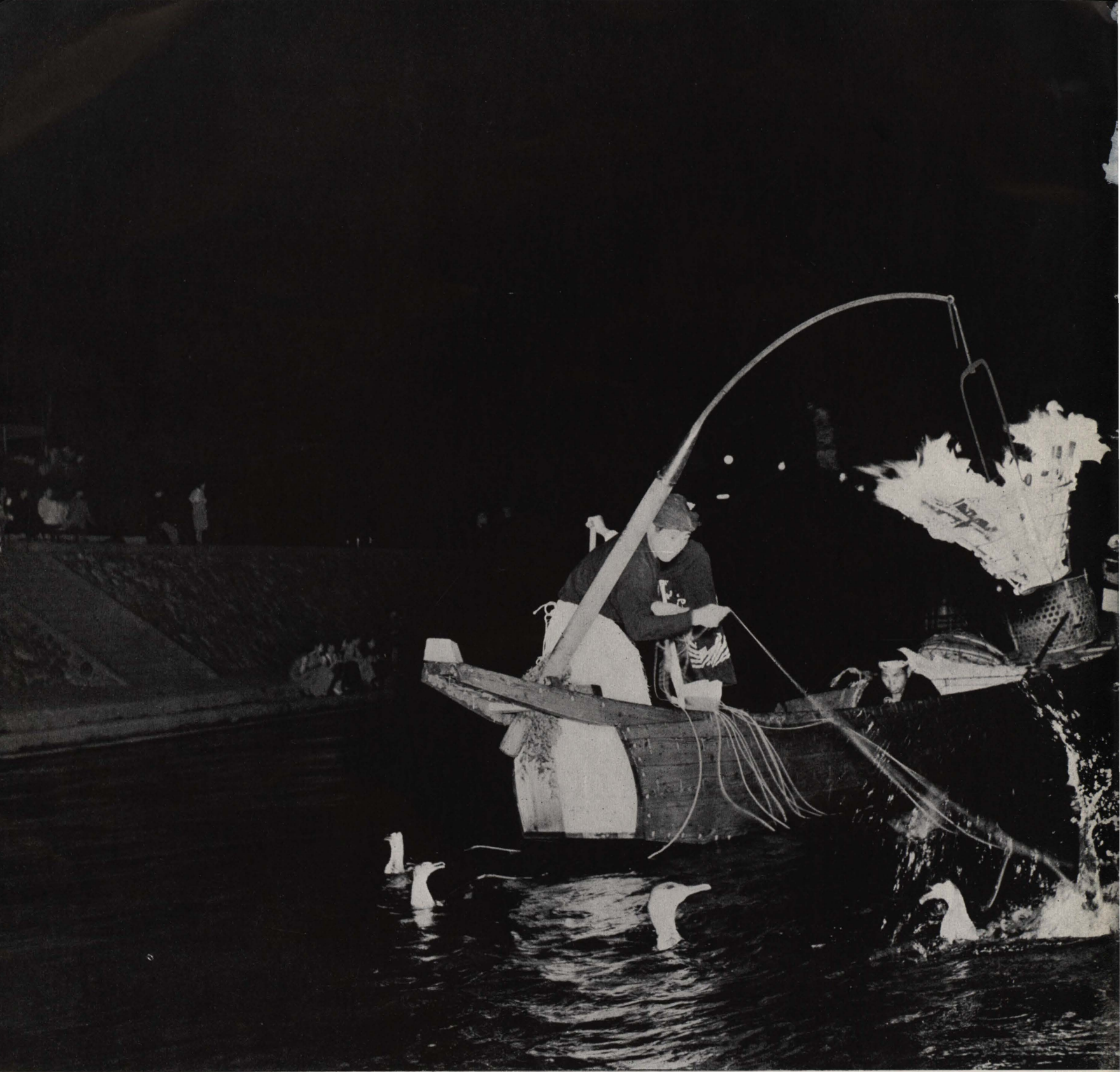


Since the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, the Japanese have become very enthusiastic about swimming. It is one of the sports in which Japanese stars shine in international matches.



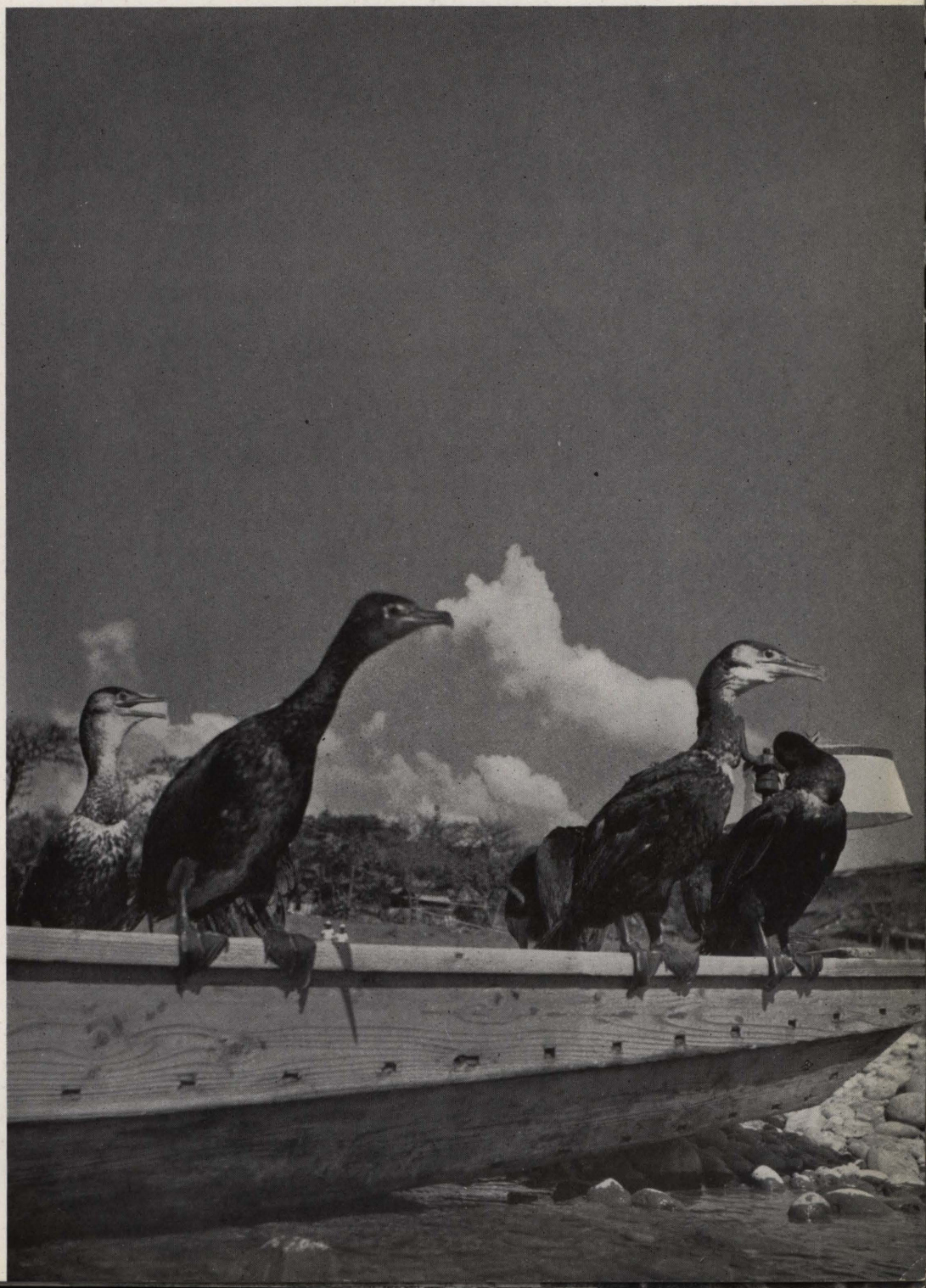
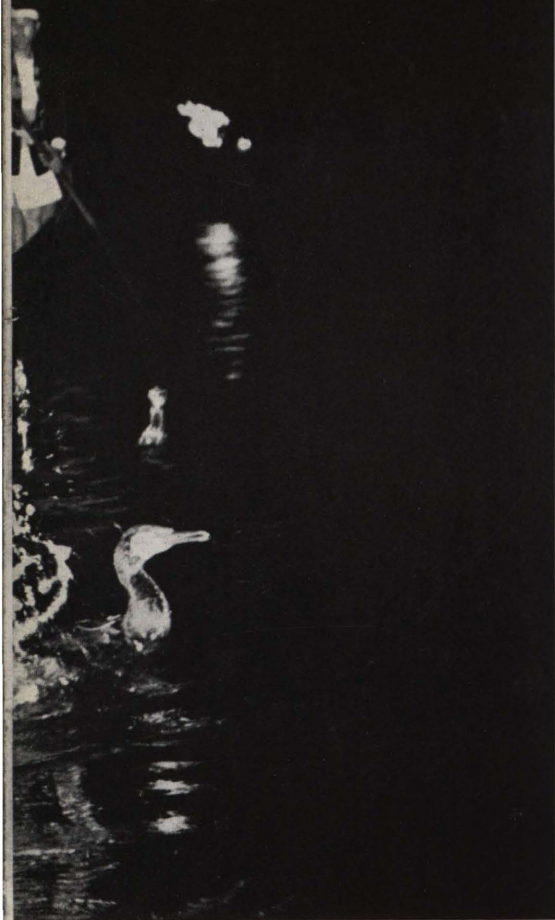
The little girl of Japan comes into her own each year on the third of March, when the famous Festival of Dolls is held.





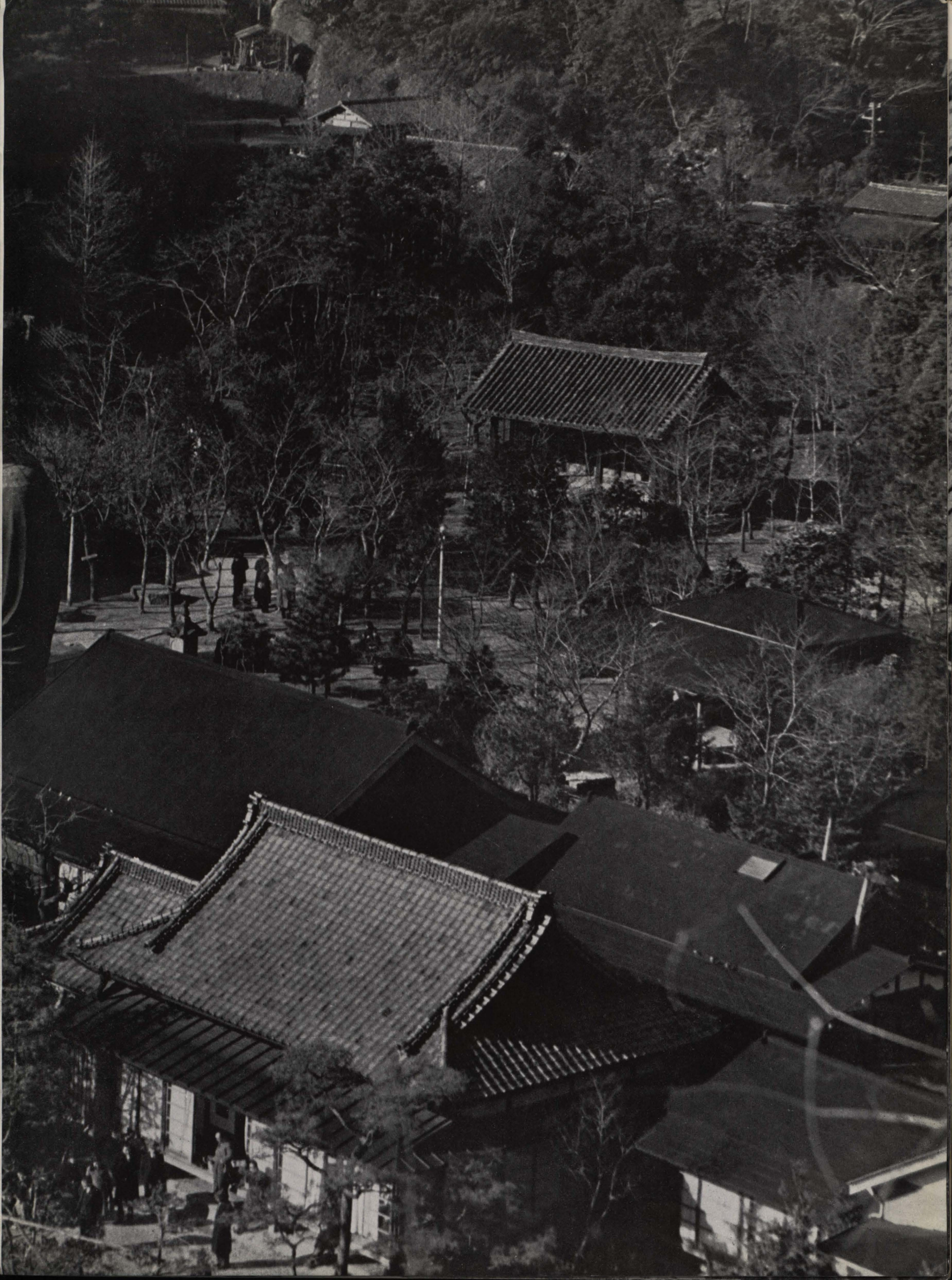
If a tourist wants a real thrill, let him go to Gifu and see the cormorant fishing on the River Nagara. There are weird and entrancing qualities in the pictures presented on the river during the summer months when the fishermen seek their catch, by the aid of clever birds, in the quietly flowing waters. From May 11th to October 15th the fishing takes place nightly except during the full moon, or when the water is too muddy, as then the fish cannot be lured by torchlight within grasping distance of the birds. This peculiar method of catching the finny creatures ("ayu") dates back to the eighth century.

Each cormorant wears a cord around its neck so that it will not be tempted to swallow the catch before the fisherman gets it.





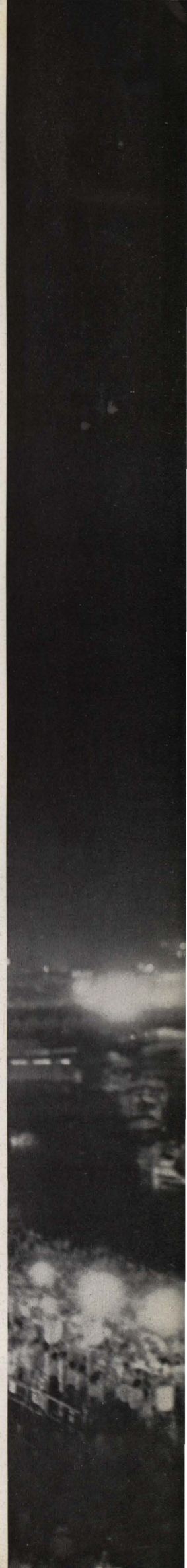
The Daibutsu, erected at Kamakura in 1252 A.D., is one of the finest bronze images of Amitabha. Kamakura then was the Shogun's Capital.



July in Tokyo offers a great variety of festival celebrations. Perhaps the most popular is the fireworks display over the River Sumida, held usually on the third Saturday of the month, highlighting the River Fete, and announcing the advent of the picnic season. The fete is said to date from the Empo era, about 270 years ago.



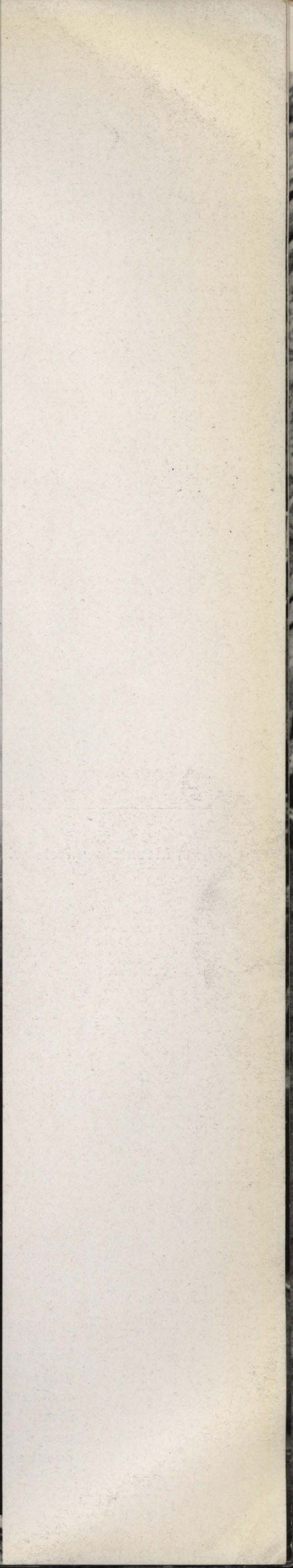
Children have their summer-night entertainment in the display of toy fireworks.







Some 60 years ago Rev. Walter Weston introduced the Japan Alps to mountaineering enthusiasts. The picture shows Mt. Hotaka (10,112 ft.) in the Northern Alps.





Mountain priests with trumpet-shells participate in Nikko's festivals.

Many are the holidays on the calendar of Japan—every temple, shrine, city and village has its national and local carnival days. The traveler in Japan can hardly fail to see such a unique picture as this religious procession at Nikko formed by priests and men dressed in costumes of antiquity, recalling days and deeds of the historic past. This colorful procession constitutes the main event of the grand festival of the Toshogu Shrine, held annually on May 17th.









Tokyo, with its population of seven million people, is still changing in appearance. Here is the center of the metropolis with its imposing buildings and wide roads.

Of the numerous castles once fortifying the cities of feudal Japan, only seven noteworthy keeps have survived the ravages of war and time. The Himeji Castle shown here is the most typical and best preserved stronghold of those olden days. With its many-gabled and gracefully curving roofs and its white-plastered, battlemented walls, it is often called the White Heron Castle. Himeji, 34 miles to the west of Kobe, is now a busy commercial and industrial city.





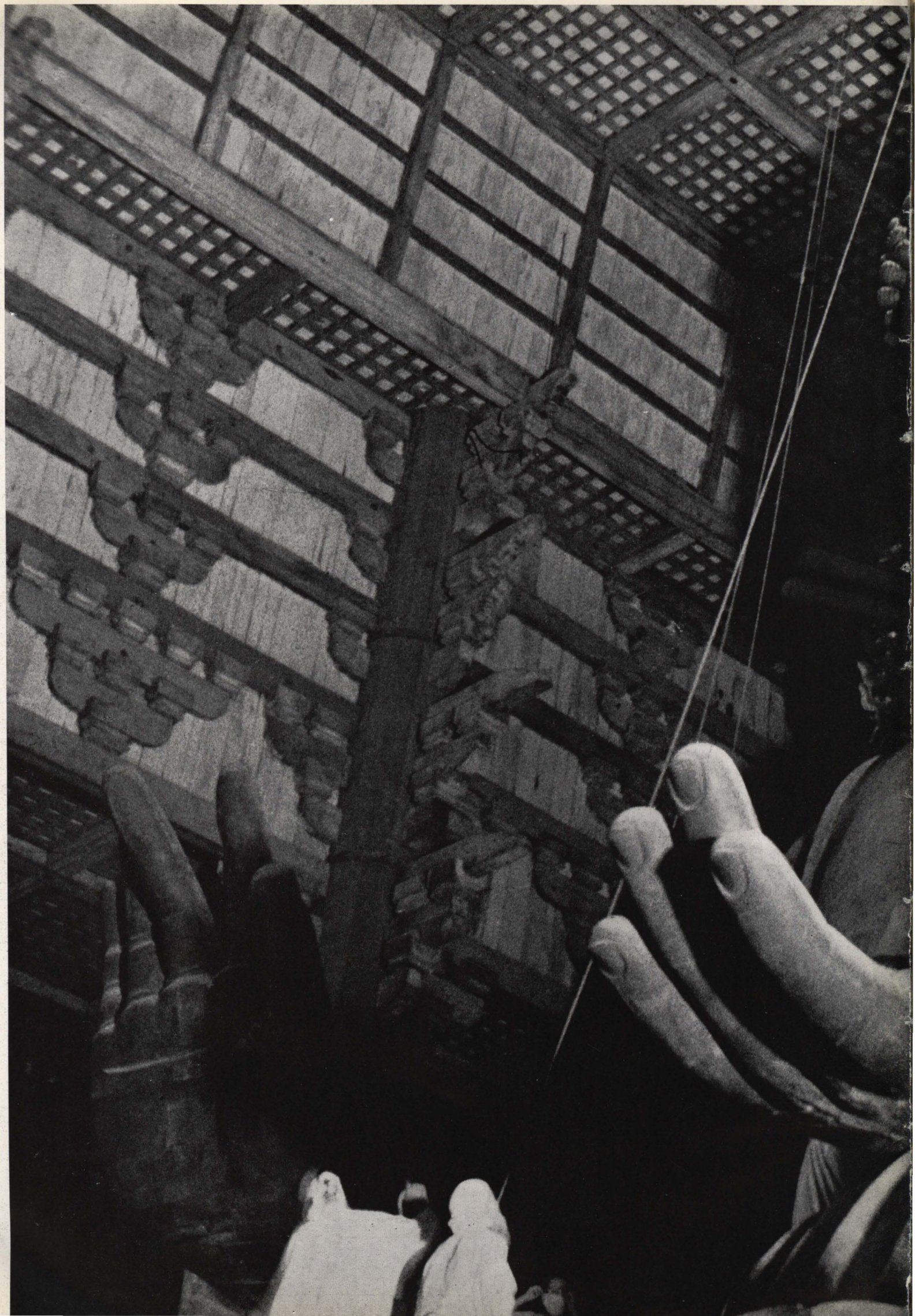


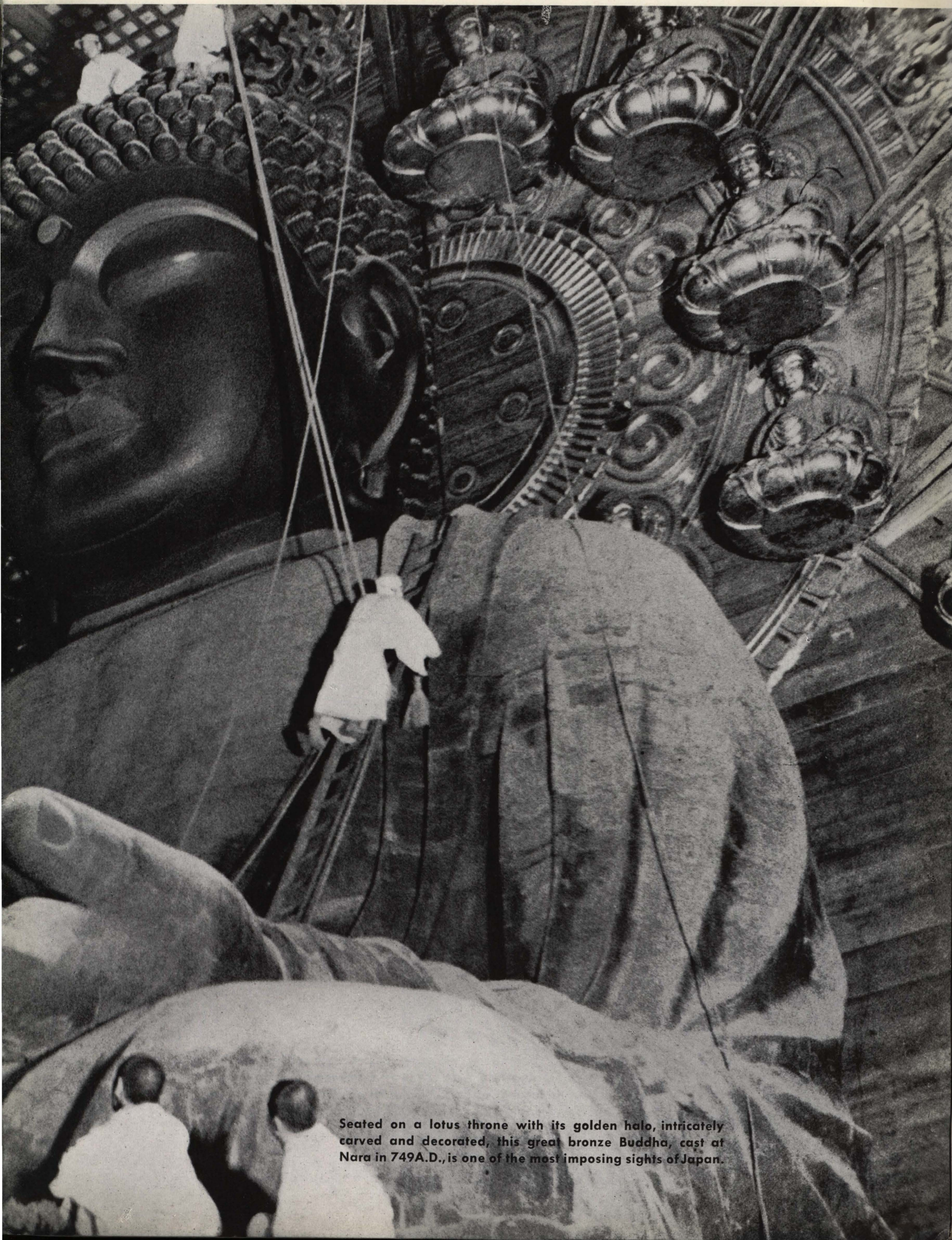
Farming in Japan demands a good deal of hand labor. Rice is the chief product. After the sprouting of the rice seeds the tender plants are gathered from their beds, separated and transplanted in other fields.



A farmer's family gather around the hearth after a day's work in the paddy-fields.







Seated on a lotus throne with its golden halo, intricately carved and decorated, this great bronze Buddha, cast at Nara in 749A.D., is one of the most imposing sights of Japan.



"Mikoshi", or sacred palanquins, play an indispensable role in the festivals of Shinto shrines held in summer and autumn. Here is shown a boisterous scene at the autumn festival of the Matsubara Shrine at Mega in the suburbs of Himeji City, where two palanquins in the midst of the closely-packed onlookers are locked in a fight for the right of way to the Shrine.



A shrine palanquin is pulled uphill by eager parishioners.

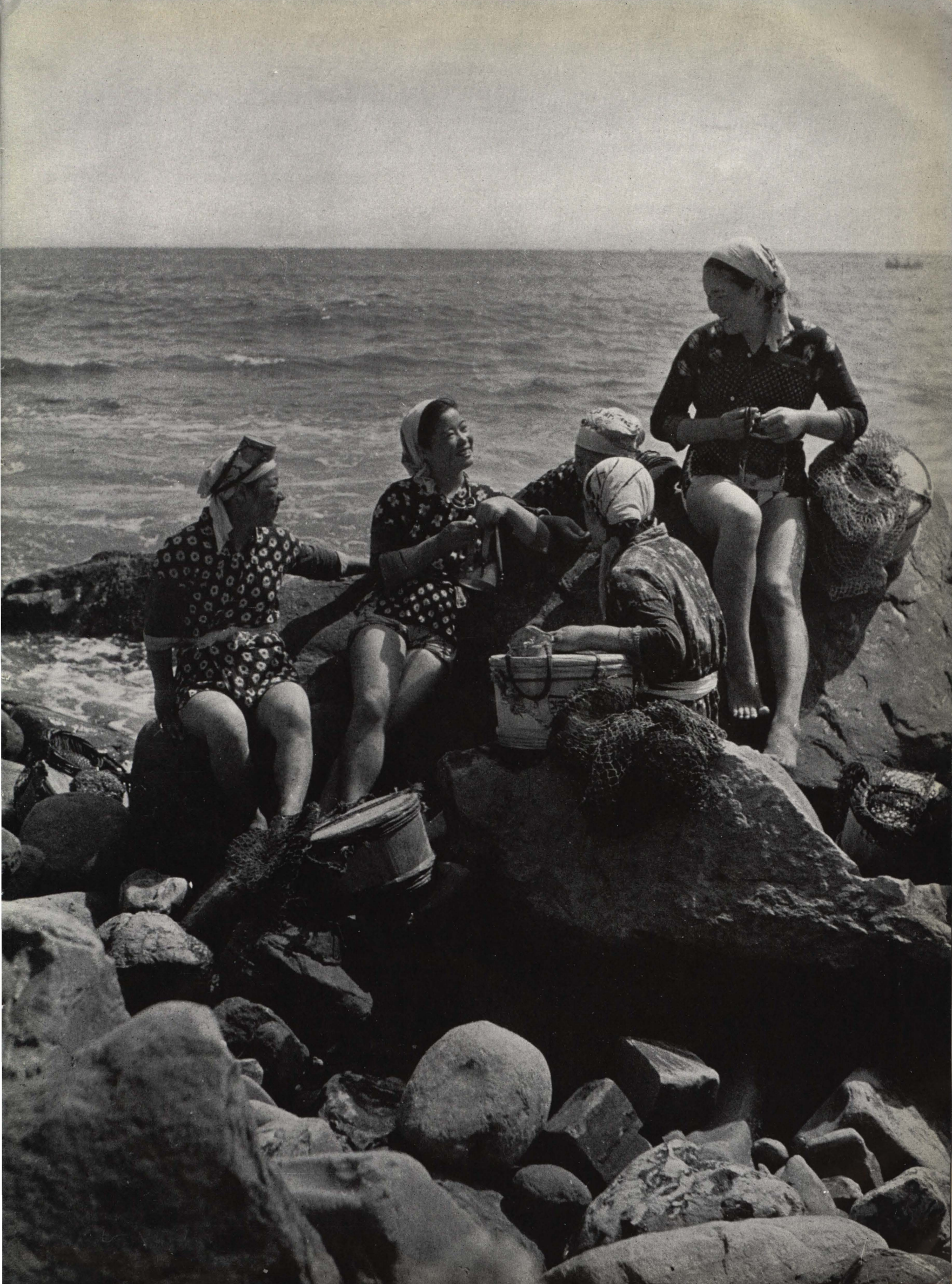


Divers at Mikimoto's pearl farms paddle with tubs before them in readiness for the harvest.



After the toil of diving into several fathoms of water to bring up abalones from the bottom of the bay, the women divers enjoy a well-earned rest.









Ueno, mecca of Tokyo's cherry-blossom viewers, is closely associated with the Japan of yesterdays. The red pagoda is sacred to the memory of Ieyasu, the first of the Tokugawa Shoguns who made Edo (present-day Tokyo) their capital.

Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, has ever been a festival city, where the past as well as the present is alive. Its streets were laid out to accommodate the many pageants and parades that were common sights there when it was the capital.

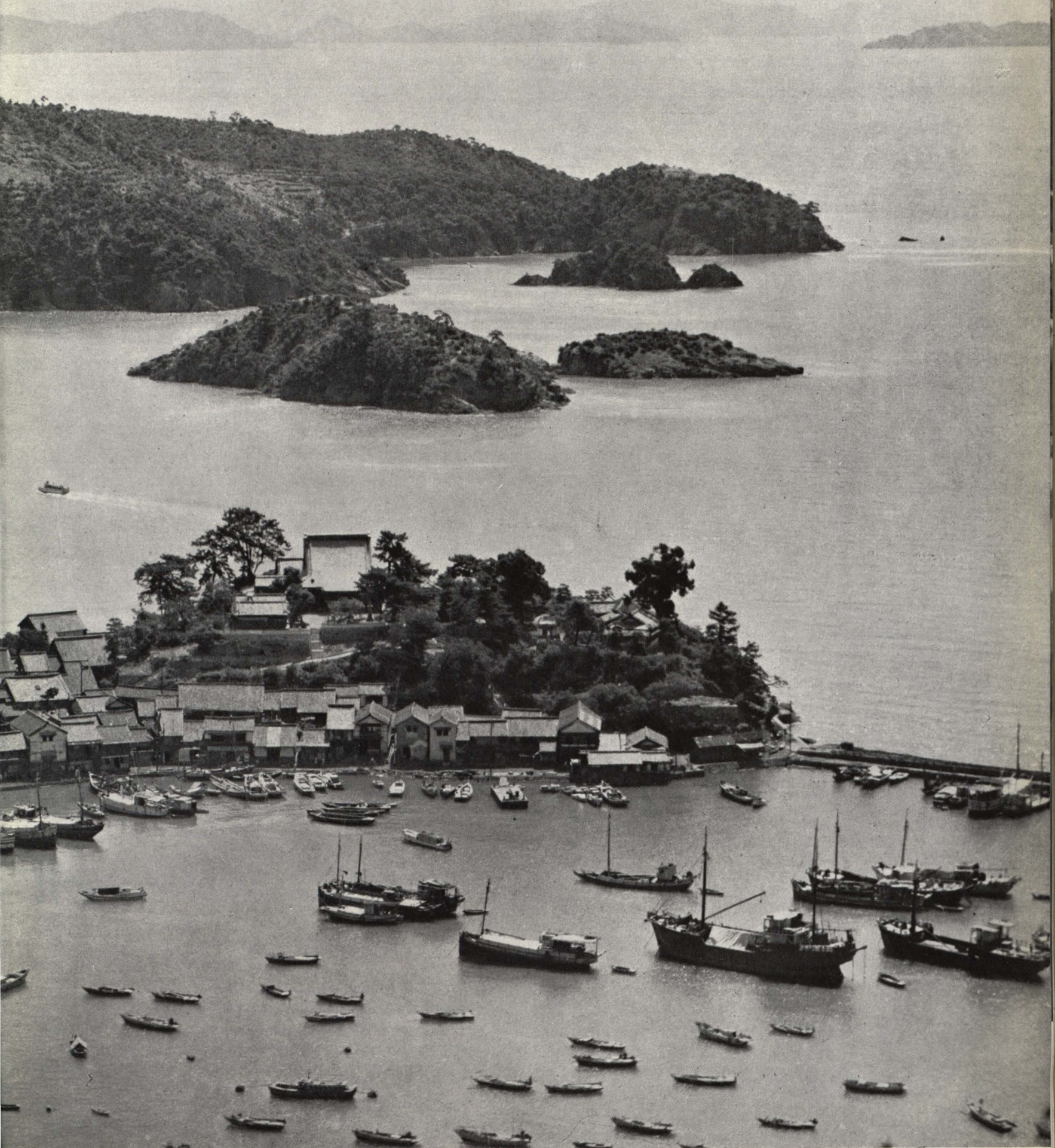


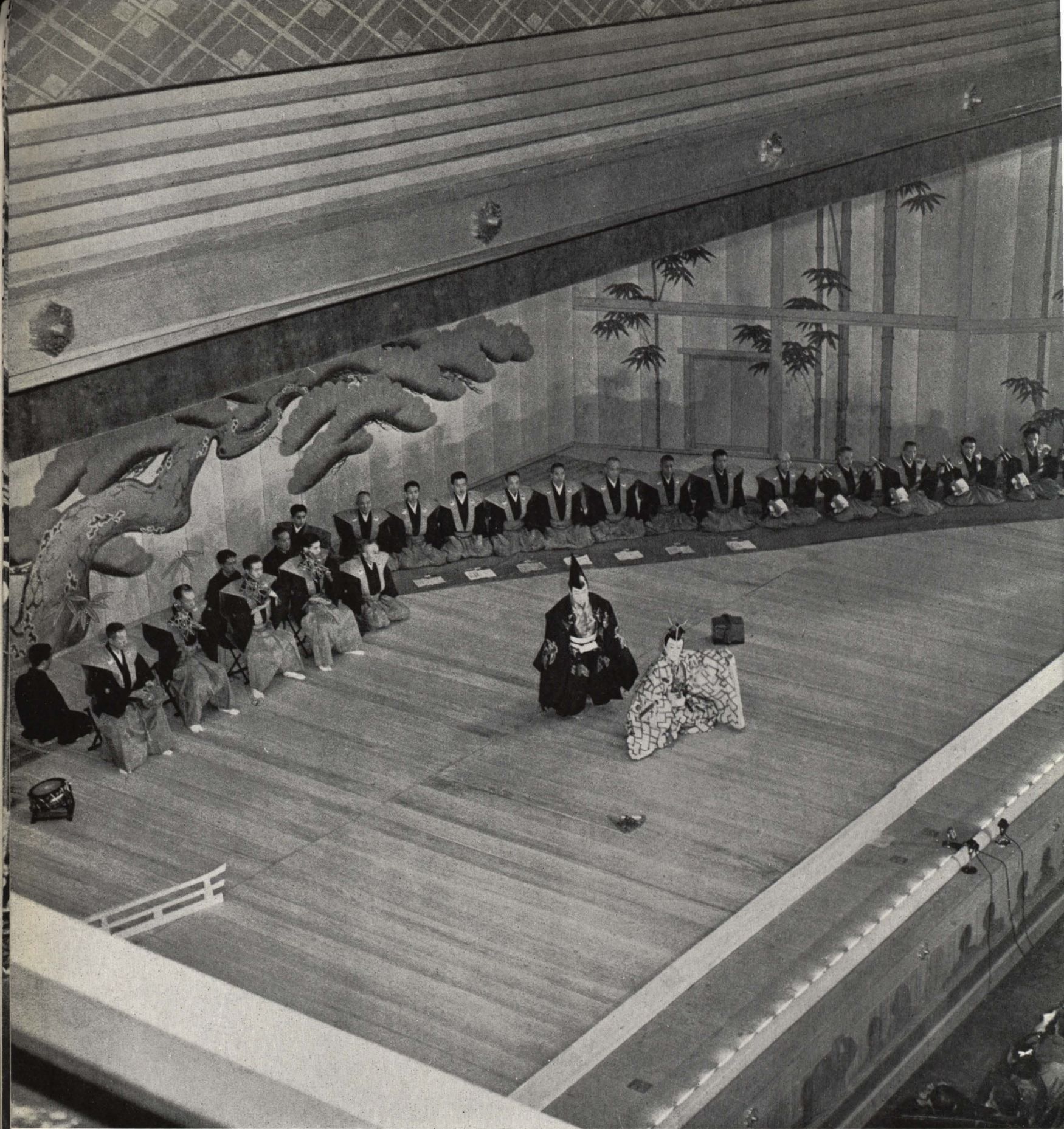
Here are shown the gorgeously decorated "hoko" floats of the Gion Festival, one of Kyoto's summer fetes. These huge ornamental towers placed on four massive wooden wheels parade the principal streets of the ancient city on July 17th and 20th.



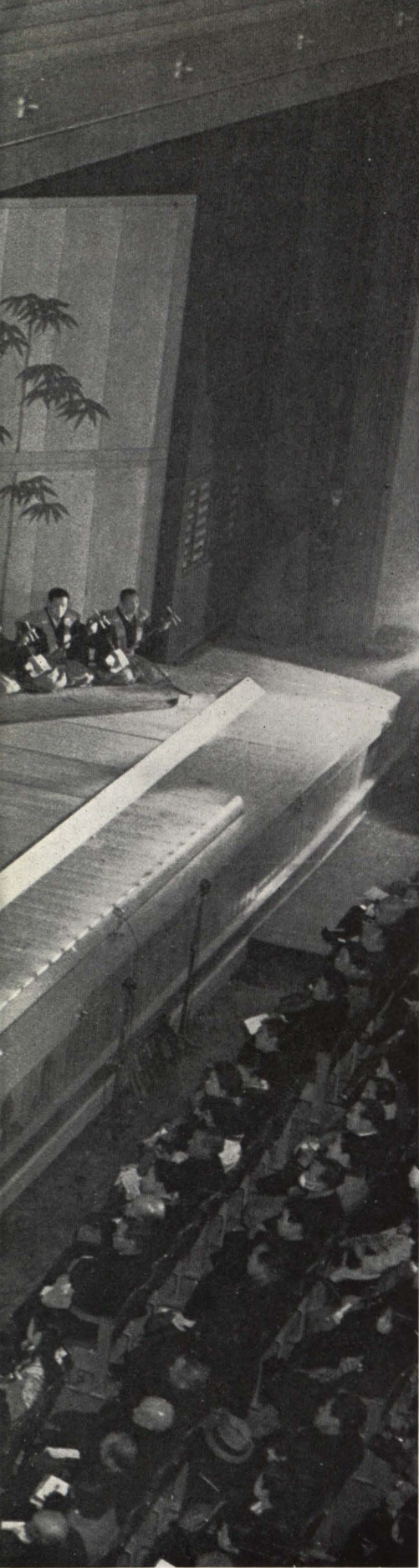


The Inland Sea, with its 310 miles of waterways, dotted with more than a thousand islands and fringed by many a flourishing town, is a tourist's dream. The picture shows one of its loveliest gems,—Sensuijima, off the Port of Tomo.

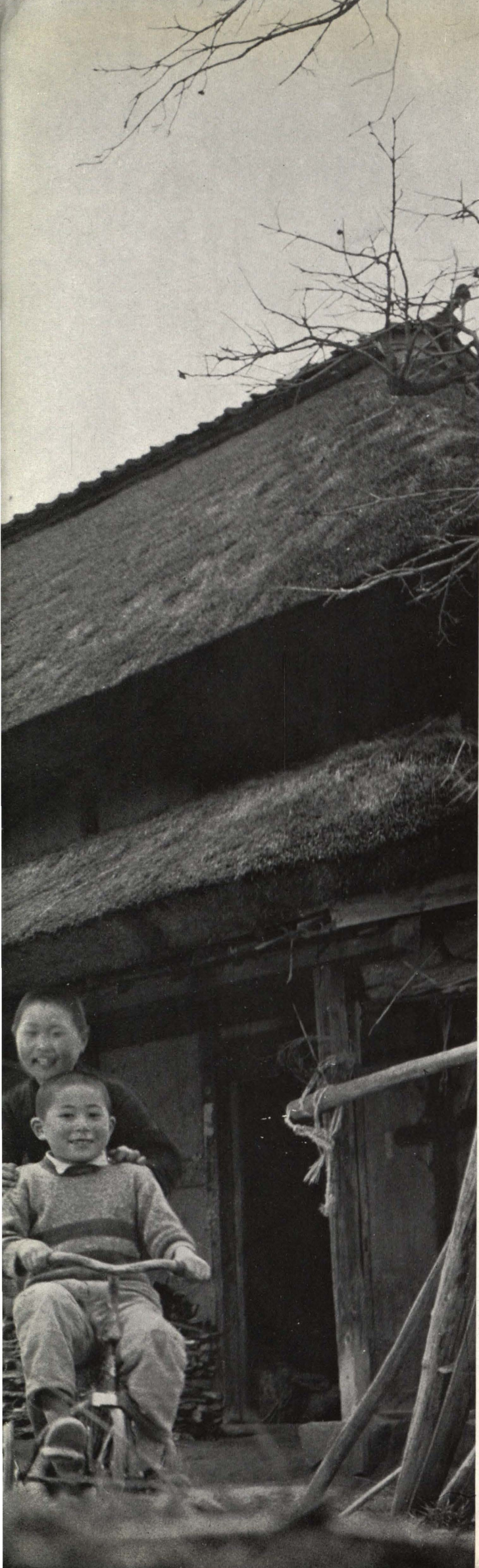




The Kabuki as a stage art was perfected during the Edo period (1615-1868) and therefore reflects the culture and civilization of the townsmen of Edo. It covers nearly all the different phases of theater art, such as historical drama, realistic play, romantic melodrama, musical play, dramatic dance, comedy and farce. All these plays are accompanied by song and music. In the above picture members of the orchestra are shown seated at the rear of the stage. The picture at the right above shows the front view of the Kabukiza Theater in Tokyo, where popular repertoires are presented throughout the year and the leading actors appear. At the right three geishas, dressed in their New Year best, look at the actors' name plates posted in front of the theater.







On the fifth day of the fifth month (May 5th) Japan celebrates the "Tango-no-Sekku", Boys' Festival. A feature of the celebration is the carp streamers, which are flown that day before each home blessed with a son or sons, one for each boy in the family. According to an ancient legend, the carp was chosen as a symbol of the day because it has the energy and power to fight its way up swift-running streams, cascades and falls. The motive of the festival is to teach the boys manliness, encouraging them to overcome life's difficulties.

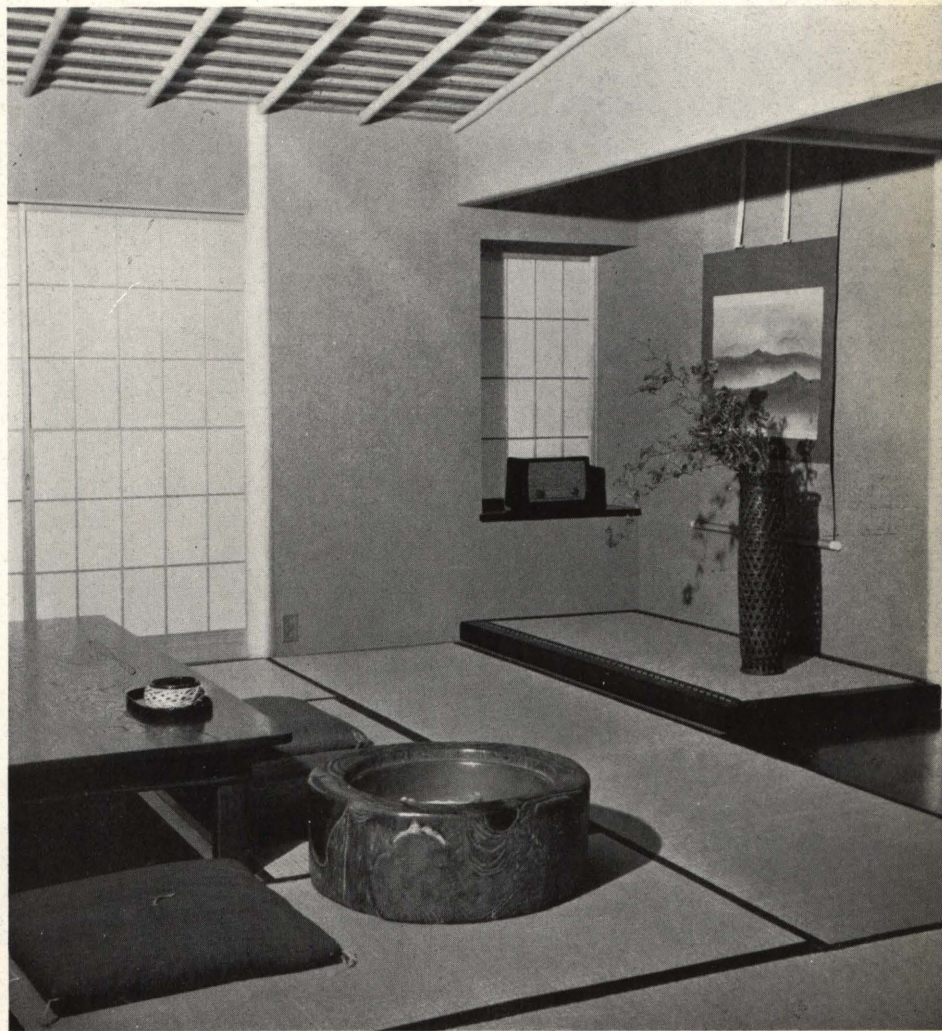


"Awa Odori" is one of Japan's most famous dances held in the "O-bon" season (August 16th-18th) in the streets of Tokushima, Shikoku Island. In this season young folks all over the country gather in the open spaces and perform gay colorful dances.





Located in ideal surroundings—with a good view of Oshima Island and Mt. Fuji and with fine golf courses—the Kawana Hotel in the Izu Peninsula ranks among Japan's best resort hotels.



Interior view of a "ryokan" or Japanese-style inn.



The Tokugawa Shogunate left many monuments to its great regime, but none is more famous than the Toshogu Shrine at Nikko, the mausoleum of the First Shogun Ieyasu. Nikko is, of course, one of the most important "must-sees" of Japan. It has a double beauty, that of trees, temples, waterfalls, lakes and mountains. Nikko's architectural masterpiece is Yomei-mon (above). It is a gate of such surpassing beauty that it has often been called the "Sunrise-till-dark-gate". It certainly could easily provide entertainment for an enthusiast for that length of time.





In "sumo", unless the contestants rise to grapple together at the same moment, they cannot begin their bout. They are allowed five minutes to come to a clinch.

The ancient Japanese sport of "sumo" is steeped in tradition and few changes have been made in the rituals and customs accompanying its performances. This native sport is engaged in by students and villagers, as well as by professionals. The professional wrestlers are all giants weighing from 250 to 350 pounds. Of about 400 professionals only some 50 are in the coveted "makunouchi" or top-flight class. Four major bouts are held yearly,—the New Year, spring, summer and autumn tournaments. The first, third and fourth are held at the Kokugikan in Tokyo, while the second takes place in Osaka.





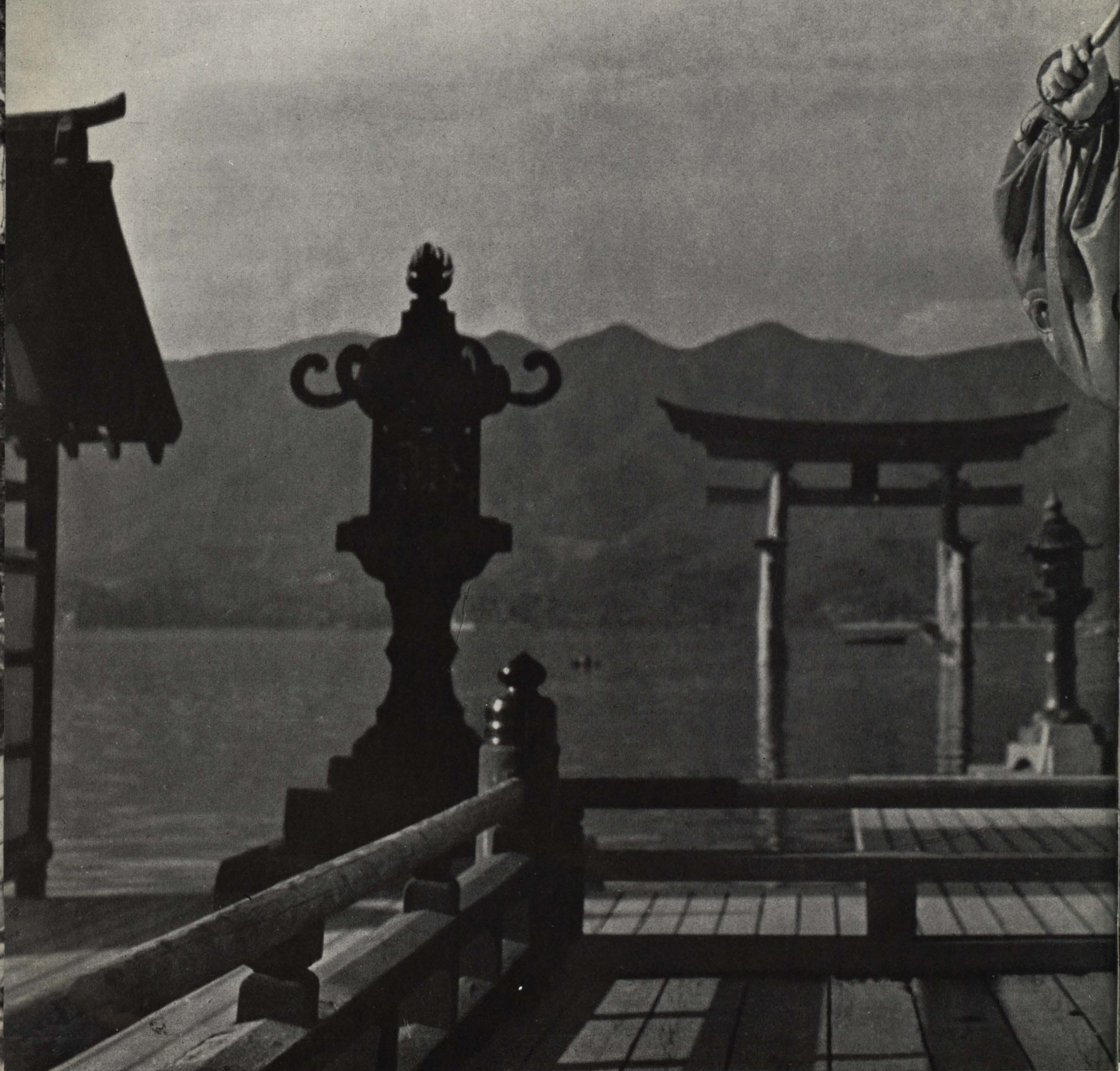


Kiddies in northern Japan have their own type of diversion.



A scene of tranquil winter beauty in the northern part of Japan, where dependable snows and salubrious hot springs provide winter vacationists with real invigoration.

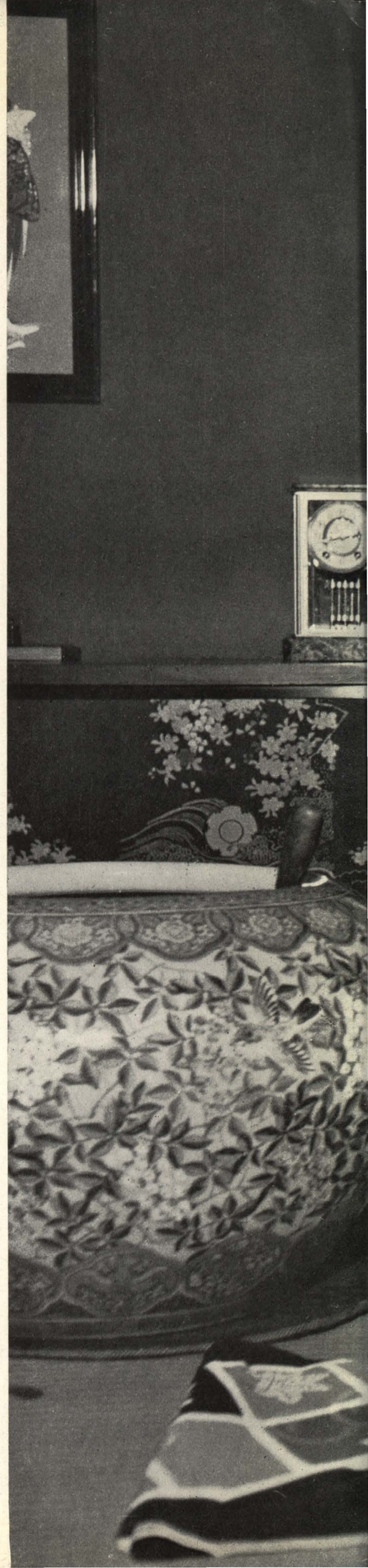
Miyajima, one of Japan's scenic wonders, is a tiny island, with only 19 miles of shoreline exposed to the caressing waters of the Inland Sea. There stands the Itsukushima Shrine, with its red torii and broad corridors and galleries seeming at high tide to float on the sea. The ancient "bugaku" dances performed during the summer festival attract thousands of spectators.







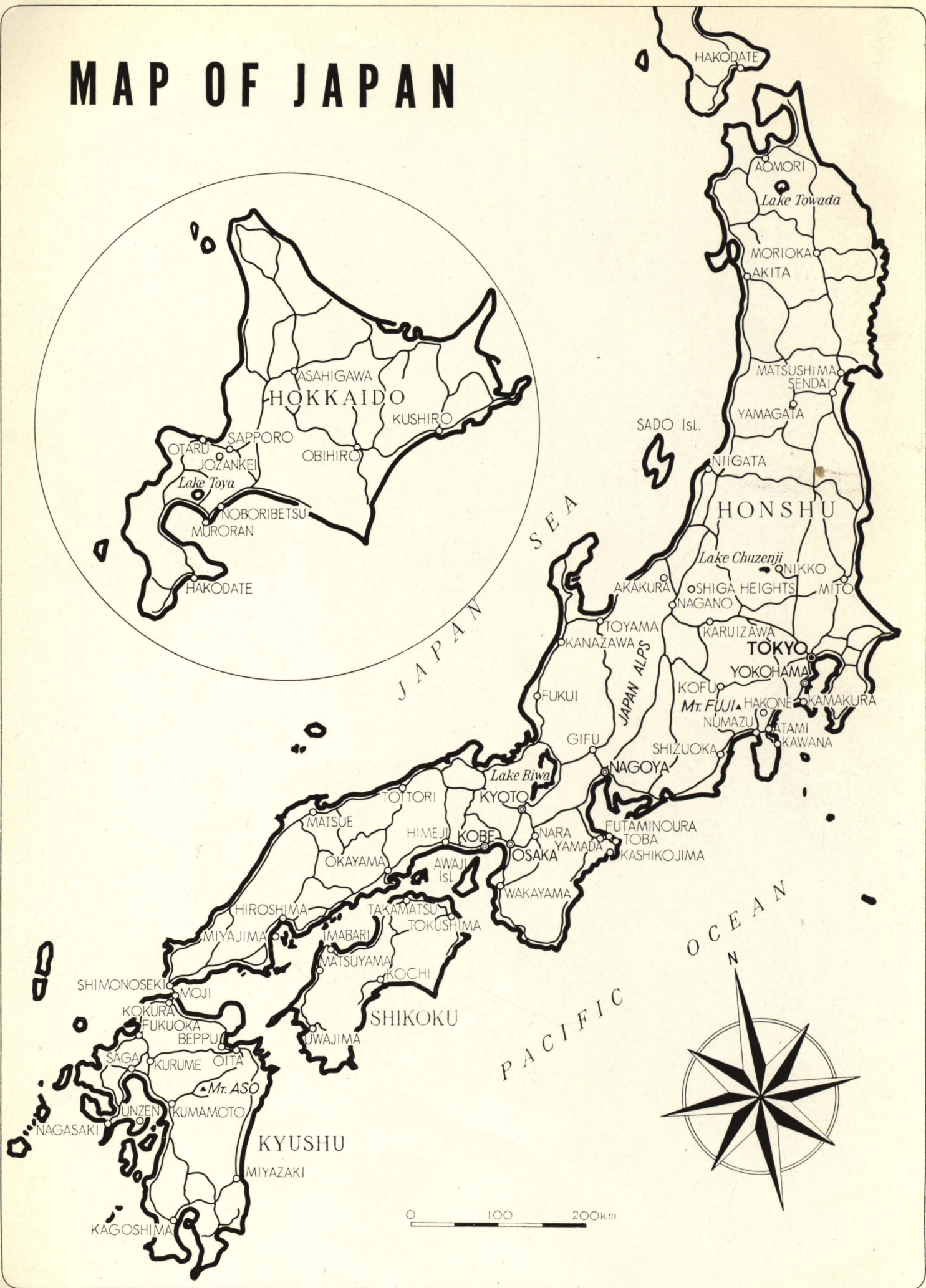
Dainty Kyoto Maiko, young girls who are studying the arts of the geisha.



A Japanese housewife at needle work. In spite of the growing interest in the western style of dress, the Japanese womenfolk still have a sort of nostalgia for the time-honored Kimono.



MAP OF JAPAN



MAP OF CANADA



JAPAN TRAVEL BUREAU

