## THE GEISHA GIRL IS PRIMARILY AN ENTERTAINER.

99999999966666666

Her Office Is to Cheer the Disconsolate, Rejoice With the Joyful and Sympathize With the Lonely. All of Which She Does for a Consideration.

ular home was in Fukugawa, in the pur- good looks and graceful manners, must lieus of the shrine of the war god, Hachi- show good taste in dressing herself and also man, situated on the River Sumida. Tea- in the arrangements of her hair. Accordhouses, of course, had long been in exist- ing to a Japanese idea the harmonious colence and the various patrons of these ors in her gowns blend in an unsurpassed houses had to content themselves with way. Moreover, everything about her dress meager entertainment. The centuries of is "smart." Her hair is exquisitely dressed peace under the Tokugawa dynasty, when and adorned with kanzashi, jeweled pins the samoural and daimio were compelled (when she can afford them), and natural to keep and maintain the peace, and the flowers, popples being the favorite. The artisan, merchant, common citizen and style of dress of the geisha differs in each peasant went their respective ways unmo- district. She will teach and play any numlested, brought a grateful relief to the na- ber of odd and pleasing games, and thus ion exhausted by internecine war. Previous beguile your time. to that time the lives of the samoural and There are three classes of geisha, the the daimio were full of action. Under the Jimaye, kakaye and the taki-wake. The new order of things, with no employment jimaye being her own mistress and owning whatever, they lived at ease, with the un- her own house is the freest and best off of derstanding that they must always be ready all. The kakaye, or ordinary geisha girl, to take up the sword and give their lives is poor, and enters service in a geishafor their lords. In consequence of this life house for a certain term, according to her of inactivity and idleness a natural list- age and attractions. She is given her board lessness soon made !tself manifest among and lodging and clothes and a tithe of her them and the samoural cast about them in earnings, though where her master or misa lazy but deliberate fashion for new means tress is hard this latter is begrudged to her. of entertainment and amusement. Then it and she has to satisfy herself by getting was that the geisha came into existence, what gratuitles she can from her patrons. sweeping all before het by her remarkable. Her life is not happy, though a jimaye will talent, vivacity and mirth, which were re- sometimes employ a couple of kakaye in her freshing and highly appreciated by the own house, and in such cases she is better jaded appetites of the samoural, dalmio, off than in a regular geisha-house. and, indeed, all classes of people. In a short time her popularity was such that no party was thought to be complete without her infectious gayety and wit to rob

it of insipidity. Onoto Watanna, writing of her in the Woman's Home Companion, says: A popular geisha is called to several houses in the course of a day or evening. She will charge only 25 sen for half an hour, but she generally receives three times this amount in tips and fees from the guests. Of course, the regular tea and geisha houses pay her a certain salary, according to her ability. But this salary is usually very small. Her chief duty is to amuse. A geisha must be highly accomplished. While not by any means a musician, she must be able to perform on the samisen, koto, tzuzumi (a drum), and other musical instruments. She dances, and talks on the lightest subjects, and always holds herself in readiness to entertain her guests, according to their mood. A witty geisha, one who is a good talker, pretty and graceful, will not lack employment at any time and generally make a very good living. While it is not at all necessary for her to arouse mirth, her object must be to beguile the time that is irksome to her guests. Thus tact enough to study the temper of her or is a "stay-at-home." patron. It might be necessary for her to laugh and chatter, sing, dance, etc. On the other hand, she need only talk very gently and sympathetically to him or engage him in some interesting conversation. or she may not have to do more than merely by her presence remove the sense of loneliness and depression. The more magnetic her personality, the more likely is she to succeed. She studies her roles thoroughly and seldom is at a loss. In fact, for all occasions she usually has a little programme of her own, which her guest or patron never would have suspected, for the geisha is a natural actress. Her taste in dress is exquisite and her movements incomparable in grace. It is a delight merely to watch an accomplished geisha as she moves and few would suspect that every movement she makes is the result of many hard hours of study. Of course, I speak here of the more accomplished and refined geisha, for by no means do we find the geisha girl in general altogether charm-

The geisha has not her parallel the world

HE geisha first came into evidence over, for unlike other women of her class about the middle of the last century. she always retains her native modesty and She has little history. Her first reg- grace. A successful geisha, besides her

It is not always an easy matter to enter service in a geisha-house. Before doing so the girl must apply in person for a license at the metropolitan police board. Here she is warned of the temptations of the new life she wishes to enter. If she still persists she is then put through an examination, and should she trip in the catechism the license is refused.

The class of geisha called the taki-wake has both money and ability, but being unfamiliar with locality and rules pertaining to the profession, she puts herself in charge of a geisha of established reputation, and agrees to share with her her earnings.

The very young geishas are called the hang-yoku, or half-fees, and they are permitted to charge but half that charged by the older ones. They generally run between the ages of 13 to 15 years, and are bound to serve from five to seven years. They are, in fact, but apprentices during the time of service, and have to be instructed in all the geisha accomplishments. By the time they have learned all the arts of the profession their term expires, and they are at liberty to go where they will. The life of the hangyoku is very hard during the term of service, as she is forced to perit often happens that one feeling depressed form the most menial work, particularly will send for a geisha girl. She will have if she shows herself prone to "tea-grinding"

> After being entertained by the geisha guest usually has a bill presented to him by the tea house, which he settles with the head of the house, throwing in an extra tip for the geisha personally.

> The charge is usually 25 sen a half hour. Time is measured by the burning of a jossstick, which takes about half an hour. For a full evening's entertainment four josssticks about estimate the time.

The geisha is very extra exant, and delights in adorning herself with expensive clothes and jewels. Beautiful combs, rings, purses, hair pins, etc., all add to the list of her expenses. In fact, she seldom has anything left after her dress is accounted for, though a great many of them are most unselfish, giving largely from their earnings to their families, in some cases being the main or sole support of a large family.

They are as generous as extravagant, and seldom refuse the petition of a beggar. When public subscriptions are raised the geisha's offerings make a large item always. During the late war with China they gave largely of their earnings to the fund