

Chinese and Japanese Students

小川四郎教授

Shiro Ogawa

編者按：小川四郎教授原係在日本仙台市東北大學，金屬材料研究所任教，今年應聘來台，講授結晶物理。小川教授能於百忙之中為本刊撰文，我們非常感謝，謹此表示謝忱。

I would like to discuss in general on Chinese and Japanese students, though I know only little about the former owing to a short lapse of time since my arrival at Taipei.

It seems to me that students of both countries resemble each other in the following point: Their desire for entering excellent and famous high schools and universities (sometimes primary and middle schools) is very strong irrespective of their ability, and they study hard to pass severe examination, violent competition resulting. This seems to be caused by too dense population. I think, it is not very bad for young people to endure violent competition and to overcome difficulties. However, it would be much better if they could spontaneously study, enjoying science and life.

Forced study, or though not forced, study only for making good record in examination may not bring fruitful results, because a scientist is difficult to be born by such a process. A true scientist can think by himself, inquire into unknown matters and accomplish original work. Thus he participates in the advance of science and becomes a driving force of the civilization. I believe, students in National Taiwan University are elites who are sufficiently able to become scientists, as well as those in University of Tokyo.

Difference between students of both countries who study physics seems to lie in the behavior after graduation at universities. Most of Japanese students want to select the postgraduate course to study more science, and some of them attain their object, the other finding employment in industry. Those who want to study abroad immediately after graduation are very few. It is said, on the other hand, that almost all of Chinese students eagerly wish to study in U.S.A., Being supported by scholarship. According to my experience, Chinese students are in general much better in speaking English than Japanese students, and this may be a sign of their intense desire for going to U.S.A.

I think, it is very good to study in other countries that are more advanced in science and industry. Also in Japan, research assistants, lecturers and assistant professors often go abroad to study, after having obtained the degree of Ph.D in Japanese universities. However, almost all of them return to their mother country and begin to work with extensive knowledge and improved ability which they have got abroad. I hear, on the other hand, very few of Chinese students want to return to their mother country. There will be various problems such as differences in the level of living and in research equipments, but it is much regrettable that scientists make their effort to advance science and improve industry not in their mother country but in a foreign country. It is said that science has no frontier, but it is usual at present that scientists should first work for their fatherland. It will often be even a driving force for the advance of science to be patriotic. Japan was completely defeated and the land was entirely destroyed after the last Great War. I believe, however, it is due greatly to enthusiastic love of Japanese scientists to their fatherland that Japan could recover from the severe blow of defeat and return to the international society.

In order that any university may continue studies of science and any industry may be more improved, it is indispensable that successors must be present in each field, or else professors in universities will become old in vain and industries will go to ruin. I would like to call attention of all Chinese students as follows: Asian scientists should participate in the advance of science and the improvement of industry in Asia, especially in their fatherland.