

X - 78 - 94. Catechism - Agnes Smedley's conversation with a 20 year old Chinese guerrilla fighter from Clipper sponsored lecture.

Contributors - Statement concerning Agnes Smedley's articles on the social conditions of HongKong. Undated excerpts from The Clipper.

CATECHISM

DURING HER *Clipper*-sponsored lecture recently Agnes Smedley related a conversation she had with a 20-year old Chinese guerilla fighter.

'In your two years with the fighters,' she asked, 'what have you learned besides fighting?'

'I can write my name and read five hundred Chinese characters.'

'What else?'

'Some geography.'

'Then tell me, what is the shape of the earth? Is it round or flat?'

'I don't know. I've only seen it around here.'

The author then took out her pocket knife and dropped it to the ground. 'What made that fall?' she asked.

'You didn't expect it to stay in mid-air, or fall upward, did you?' the young Chinese retorted.

The catechism veered to world politics.

'For what is China fighting?'

'For freedom from the aggressors.'

'Who are the aggressors?'

'Japan, Germany and Italy.'

'What are those countries called?'

'They are the fascist states.'

'Do you know what countries are the democratic states?'

'Yes.'

'What is the difference between the fascists and the democracies?'

The boy paused and then answered, 'Not very much. You've got to be careful.'

CONTRIBUTORS

AS MOST OF OUR READERS will not need telling, Agnes Smedley writes in no artistic vacuums, but always with a practical purpose. Her article *The Light of East Asia* is the result of a study of social conditions in Hongkong last Spring. A good deal of it was published at the time in the *South China Morning Post*, for it was written as a direct challenge and appeal to the wealthy community of the Colony. To the published material Miss Smedley has added for *The Clipper* some general information about Hongkong's progressive forces.

We have found ourselves particularly intrigued by the personality of Ronald Hall, Church of England Bishop of Hongkong, who is one of Miss Smedley's closest friends and allies in all China. (He officially signs himself 'Ronald Hongkong.') It was at Bishop Hall's home that Miss Smedley finally re-found some of her health and strength early this year, after her amazing adventures and ordeals all over China as correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* and representative of the Chinese Red Cross Medical Aid. She had previously tried in vain to get well in hospitals at Ichang, Chungking and Kweiyang; but the Japanese had a way of knocking down any hospital shortly after she moved in.

Bishop Hall will be crossing the United States this month, en route to England to rejoin his wife and children (who were evacuated from Hongkong and twice torpedoed in the Atlantic). There will be an opportunity to hear him in Los Angeles from the same platform as Miss Smedley, in a double-bill lecture at the Philharmonic Auditorium.