

ward on this route as far as Kao-ch'ang-kuo. Bearing in mind the geographical importance of K'o-han-fu-t'u Chêng, the author makes comment that in the 5th century, when Juan-juan 蠕蠕 ruled over Kao-ch'ang-kuo, they also stationed their military base in this place. (Continued in the succeeding issue.)

On the Establishment of *Chiu-p'in kuan-jên fa* 九品官人法

by Shigeaki OCHI

The present article deals with the new system for appointing government officials instituted by Ts'ao Ts'ao 曹操 in the third decade of the third century when Ts'ao Ts'ao was yet to found the Wei 魏 Dynasty. At that time this new system was called *chiu-p'in* 九品 or *chiu-p'in-chih* 九品制, and it was only after the system had become obsolete in the later period that it was called *chiu-p'in kuan-jên fa* 九品官人法 or *chiu-p'in chung-chêng* 九品中正.

The new system was adopted for two purposes: the first was to enable officials concerned in the Central Government to be in full command of personnel administration throughout the country; the second, to eliminate possible causes of unfair connections which used to exist between personnel officers and aspiring applicants for high positions. In the Latter Han 後漢 period, the personnel system was largely affected by this private relationship, sometimes infringing upon the Emperor's ruling power, as was typically shown in the case of *Tang-ku-yu* 党錮獄.

The above-mentioned two purposes were almost fulfilled by the enforcement of the new system. After thirty years the system was subject to a large revision, but even thereafter it remained quite effective for the second purpose, although no longer effective for the first.