

2-211981
ANCIENT "LIGHTS" - - Centuries-old lantern
ceremony marks completion of successful rice
harvest, in Hapan.

-Ishiki-

Picture.:- Superstitions, like old customs, die hard.
Here is an interesting one which has lived for--

--nearly a thousand years. Once, the rice crop in the
district failed disastrously.

The malign underground devils--
--blasted every root as it grew,--
--and famine followed. So the--
--natives built huge fires to scare--
--said devils away--
--from the rice fields. Curiously enough--
--the devils obliged, and the--
--crops thrived. It developed into--
--a, regular harvest celebration--
--with lanterns instead of--
--fires. Even the lanterns--
--grew, until they had to be hoisted by--
--winches. But since it all started--
--there has --
--never been a--
--crop failure. Curious, isn't it ?