



#### GOLDEN CASKETS CONTAINING THE LIFEWORK OF THE DEAD PUPAE

After the pupae of the silkworm have been killed by steaming, the cocoons are placed on shelves in drying sheds, being turned over daily with wooden peels or shovels to prevent decomposition of the dead insects within. The drying process extends over three months, and Lebanon children help in the work involved. The contents of this shed represent no inconsiderable fortune to the owner

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*

Druses and Moslems hold no funeral service. No mourning is worn. For weeks the women frequent the grave "to weep there," chanting sad, brief threnodies as they sit, their bodies swaying to the rhythm.

Superstition dies slowly. Many "holy places" are visited by multitudes at certain seasons, and at other times by individuals for personal reasons. Each community has its shrines—in cave, grove, or monastery, by lonely tree, or in the white-domed sanctuaries that crown so many heights. Vows are paid,

gifts presented, and homage offered to the spirit of saint or prophet dwelling there. Devotees hope, by winning his favour, to gain their heart's desire. He is revered and feared. Anything entrusted to his care and left in the open shrine is absolutely safe. A man may swear by God and break his vow, but a vow taken in the saint's name he will in no wise violate.

Certain shrines, nominally Christian, are frequented also by Druse, Metawileh, Moslem, Jew, and Beduin Arab. These must have been already sacred spots