

## LIVING FOREVER.

THAT is a remarkable story that the veracious Associated Press sends from China which concerns Li Ching-Yun, who was born in 1667 and is still going strong at the age of 252. He has survived 23 wives and is living happily with his twenty-fourth, a mere child of 60.

The documents that establish this elderly Chinese citizen's birth date seem to be well authenticated. For instance, it seems to be officially proved that when he became a centenarian back before the American Revolution had started the Chinese Imperial government issued an order recognizing the antiquity of the man. A similar recognition was extended a century later and if Li Ching-Yun lives until 1967, as now seems likely, he will doubtless be honored again.

How does he do it? The explanation is made that during his first century of life this man who has formed the habit of living was a druggist and experimented with medicinal plants found in the mountains of Yunnan and discovered herbs which prevent the ravages of old age. He has continued to use those herbs and has continued to live.

We shall watch the papers with some curiosity for a time to see if the medical concoction that has kept Li Ching-Yun alive is not on the market at a price that will make it available for all human kind. And if it is, and if it does all claimed for it, then the Malthusian doctrine should be brought out and cleaned up for use again. With the human race living for centuries instead of for a fraction of a century more food will be needed.

But there is no suggestion that this Yunnan mountain elixir of life will be effective against speeding automobiles or poison hooch, so perhaps the danger of starvation is not serious.

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