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Shima Peninsula, Mie Prefecture  
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## *Ryokan Bathing*

THESE are photos of the men's bathing facilities at Yukinosato, a *ryokan* or traditional Japanese inn on a peninsula that juts out into the Pacific Ocean between Nagoya and Osaka. Above is where the actual bathing and soaking is done. I come in, stark naked. Sorry. An ugly image! Only the young should be stark naked. I hold a *tenugui*, an elongated Japanese washcloth. I sit on a wooden stool at one of the booths. There is a handheld shower head if I want it, but I prefer to slosh hot water over myself with a wooden bucket, as in the old days. The three pump bottles at each booth contain shampoo, hair conditioner and liquid body soap. Only rarely are the bottles labeled in English, so it helps that I can read simple Japanese. After I wash, I slip into the pool and sit up to my neck in the hot mineral water for maybe ten minutes, just soaking, relaxing. The boxed trough at extreme left constantly spews hot spring water into the pool. Then I get out, dry off and finish the job while sitting on a wicker stool at one of the basins shown at right. The basin counter is equipped with everything I need – disposable combs, razors and toothbrushes, electric hair dryers, and an array of after shave lotions, hair tonics and skin creams. Now I don my cotton *kimono*, feeling good, very good, and I'm ready for dinner or a whisky or both.

