

BOOK REVIEWS

Also, it seems unnecessary to have devoted so much sarcastic energy to assaulting "modernistic" and "materialistic" trends of thinking, unless one presumes his readership to be naturally antagonistic. Mr. Schuon variously makes war on "the 'free-thinking' world" (p. 17); "Western scientism" (p. 45); "evolutionist distortion" (p. 67); "our present-day iconoclasts" (p. 123); "contemporary apologists for Buddhism" (p. 124); "exponents of pseudo-Zen and pseudo-Vedanta" (p. 156), and so on. These are, I trust, no instances of the translator's reference to "the reproach intended as a compliment!"

Lastly, Mr. Pallis should be commended for his lucid translation of material, the nature of which is inherently difficult to transport from one language to another. And the book in question should be recommended to all serious persons interested in Buddhism, as a unique contribution to its metaphysical definition.

J. S. EDGREN

ON INDIAN MAHAYANA BUDDHISM: by D. T. Suzuki; edited with an introduction by Edward Conze. Harper Torchbooks, TB 1403, 1968, 276 pp.

Few people seem to be aware of the fact that preceding his extensive elucidations of Zen Buddhism, there was a period during which the late D. T. Suzuki devoted himself to the study of the basic principles of Indian Mahayana Buddhism. In this book Dr. Edward Conze attempts to show this aspect of Dr. Suzuki's work, which has gained the attention of the general public to a far less extent than have his books on Zen proper. Dr. Conze tries here to call the attention of the reader to Dr. Suzuki's endeavoring of long years to reveal the essential oneness of Zen Buddhism with the early Mahayana thought in India which is generally conceived of as its authentic background. Although the materials included in this book are all Dr. Suzuki's, the entire contents are carefully arranged according to Dr. Conze's view of Buddhism, mainly along the lines of Prajñāpāramitā philosophy.

It can be said that he has been fairly successful in his attempt, since the reader will thus be given a glimpse of another vital stream of thought running concurrently with Dr. Suzuki's Zen Buddhist philosophy.

The editor's elaborate additions to the footnotes and bibliographies, as well as his long introduction, all of which bring this book up to date in light of contemporary scholarship, greatly help the modern reader in the understanding of the author's original intentions.

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