

BOOK REVIEWS

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT BUDDHIST BOOKS* RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN JAPAN

Some good dictionaries of Buddhism, both general and special, have been recently published, the principal ones of which are as follows:

1. 佛教大辭典 (*Bukkyo Daijiten*), by late Tokuno Ota. Large 8vo, pp. 1874. Fully illustrated. This was the life work of the author who devoted many years to its completion all by himself. It contains more than 20,000 Buddhist terms of biography, geography, bibliography, and metaphysics. Each term is referred to its original text where it occurs, and concisely but sufficiently explained.

2. 佛教大辭彙 (*Bukkyo Daiji*), compiled by the Buddhist College of the Nishi Hongwanji, in three volumes with a full index separately. The first two only are published, and the remaining one with index is still in the press. The entire work will contain about 4,500 pages. Explanations are more popular than in Ota's. Well illustrated. The dictionary when completed will have about 23,000 words. Being a work of a Shin-shu college, it naturally tends to be fuller in its special line.

3. 名辭集 (*Meijishu*), by Otto Rosenberg, of the Petrograd University. This is a Buddhist vocabulary based on Japanese reading and was to be followed by essays on Buddhist dogmatics and Buddhist literature. The author studied

* Written in Japanese when not otherwise mentioned.

Buddhism in the Tokyo Imperial University and was quite a promising scholar. Unfortunately, he is now reported to have died on his way to Holland (or was it Norway?) from Russia where scholars have no chance to thrive at least for sometime under the new regime. The book consists of 549 pages, and can be had at Kyōbunkwan, Tokyo.

4. 禪宗辭典 (*Zenshu Jiten*), and 禪學辭典 (*Zengaku Jiten*). These are two dictionaries of Zen Buddhism; the first one is compiled by Kodo Yamada and published by Koyukwan, and the second by Nyoten Jimbo and Bunye Ando and published by Harako. They appeared almost simultaneously in 1915. Each in one volume, 12 mo. The first dictionary has pp. 1556, and the second pp. 1146. Neither is complete to be a satisfactory dictionary of Zen Buddhism, but as the first attempts of this kind of work they have to a certain extent succeeded. We hope for a better one to appear before long.

5. 秘密辭林 (*Himitsu Jirin*), which is a dictionary of Shingon Buddhism. One volume, 12mo, pp. 1134. Compiled by Gakujun Tomita. This mystic sect of Buddhism is full of special technical terms, which are sealed symbols to ordinary students. Besides, it has so many gods, Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and other spiritual beings, each of whom has quite a specific function to perform in the mystic rituals of the Shingon sect. Most of such terms have never been explained in a form of dictionary, as they were only orally transmitted from one scholar to another. While this work is not quite satisfactory to the requirements of the general reader, we have to congratulate the author on his venturesome undertaking.

6. 日本佛家人名辭書 (*Nippon Bukka Jimmei Jisho*), a biographical dictionary of Japanese Buddhism, by Junkei Washiwo. One volume, 8vo, pp. 1300. It contains the biographical sketches of about 6000 monks and nuns of Buddhism who lived in Japan during 1350 years since the introduction of Buddhism to this country.

7. 佛教辭典 (*Bukkyo Jiten*), is a handy dictionary of Buddhism. One volume, 16mo, pp. 1265. Compiled by G. Sasaki, C. Akanuma, S. Yamabe, and others, 1909. It explains about 20,000 Buddhist terms of various kinds.

8. 支那淨土教史 (*Shina Jodokyo Shi*). This is a history of the Pure Land doctrine in China; two volumes, 12mo, pp. 360 each. The development of the Pure Land doctrine in China, since the first introduction of Buddhism there in 243 B. C. till towards the end of the eighteenth century, is traced in outline.

9. 佛弟子傳 (*Butsu Deshi Den*), by Shugaku Yamabe. One volume, 12mo, pp. 580. This contains biographical sketches of more than fifty disciples of the Buddha, which are compiled from the Four Agama and other scriptures. Third ed., 1920.

10. 阿含の佛教 (*Agon no Bukkyo*). or Buddhism of the Agamas. By Chizen Akanuma. One volume, 12mo, pp. 500. It is divided into three parts, Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and describes characteristics of Buddhism as recorded in the four Chinese Agamas, which are compared with the Pali texts. 1921.

11. 教行信證 (*Kyō-gyō-shin-sho*), edited by Gendo Nakai. 8vo, one vol.; pp. 584, with supplement (pp. 388). The title means "Teaching, Practice, Faith, and Attainment," and the book is the fundamental text-book of the Shin-shu followers. The present edition carefully compares the three original copies of Shinran Shonin, who is the author of the text, and its several older editions. It contains a chronological study and an index. An altogether useful text for the followers and students of the Pure Land doctrine. 1920.

12. 印度の佛教美術 (*Indo no Bukkyo Bijitsu*), by Professor Bunzaburo Matsumoto. 12mo, pp. 400. Treats of

the Indian Buddhist arts such as architecture, sculpture, and painting. Besides the Gandara arts, it describes the essential features of the Gupta arts and their influence on those of China and Japan.

13. 西域の佛教 (*Saiiki no Bukkyo*), or "Buddhism of Western Lands," by Ryotai Hadani. 12mo, pp. 506. It goes without saying that Buddhism occupies a most important position in the history of Eastern civilisation, but its own history in India and especially in the so-called "Western Countries" (西域) is filled with dark spots which we are still unable to illuminate. When those antiquarians and excavators who are interested in the exploration of Central Asia furnish us with complete reports concerning their various findings, we may hope to get some light where we are at sea. In the present work the author has gathered as many materials as he could from the old Chinese historical and biographical literature recording the lives and travels of those brave and faith-burning Chinese Buddhist pilgrims and seekers of the sacred texts, who travelled west of China through Central Asia, even as far as to India, during the earlier periods of Buddhism in China. He has arranged these materials systematically in this book so that we can have a glimpse into the states of Buddhism in those lost countries. Many facts are presented here which are mostly inaccessible to Western scholars not acquainted with the Chinese language. Published by Horinkwan, Kyoto, 1914.