

## NOTES

The oldest manuscript of the Sukhāvativyūha Sutra.—While rearranging the library belonging to Eijo Otani, late president of the Otani University, an old manuscript of the Chinese version of the Sukhāvativyūha Sutra was discovered by Professor Shunjo Nogami of the Otani University.

This manuscript bears date of the second year of Shenjui (A. D. 415) of Pei-wei and proves to be the oldest manuscript of the Chinese Version of the Sutra which has hitherto been recovered.

The Sukhāvativyūha Sutra, as is well known, is one of the canonical sutras of Pure Land Buddhism, irrespective of its denominations. There are several Chinese translations, some of them missing. The version commonly used is ascribed to Sanghavarman, an Indian missionary who came to China in the middle of the third century.

Scholars, however, are sceptical about Sanghavarman's translating the text, and at present the accepted theory is that the Chinese version of the Sutra commonly used was rendered by Pao-yün in 421. But the newly recovered manuscript subverts this theory, for it was in 415 that it was copied, seven years before the date when Pao-yün is said to have translated the text.

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Of the recent publications on Buddhism, important ones are Dr D. T. Suzuki's *Essence of Buddhism*: Dr H. Ui's *Outline of Buddhism*: Dr S. Yamaguchi's *Chandrakīrti's Madhyamika-ōrti translated into Japanese*; Dr S. Ishizu's *Studies in the Tendai Philosophy*: S. Iyenag's *History of Buddhist Thought in Medieval Japan*: T. Fukuyama's *Studies in the Temples of Nara Period*.

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Renryo Shōnin's four hundred fiftieth anniversary is celebrated this year. In the Shin Sect of which Renryo Shōnin is a great father, one weeks service is to be held from April 18 at Higashi Hongwanji, which thousands of Shin devotees are to be expected to attend.

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Well known Buddhists who died of late.—We regret the deaths of Dr Junjiro Takakusu, Dr Daijo Tokiwa, Dr Shinkyo Mochizuki, and Rev. Eijo Otani.

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代表者 杉平顯智