

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### MEMORIAL ADDRESSES IN JAPAN.

In Japan the custom prevails that on a memorial day the spirit of the dead is addressed personally, and this custom is considered very impressive by foreigners who have witnessed such ceremonies.

We learn from the *Japanese Evangelist* that the Japanese Christians continue their practice after conversion, and the *Evangelist* finds nothing un-Christian in the custom. It says in commenting on this memorial ceremony:

"There are those who affirm that it shows clearly that survivors believe in the real individual existence of the spirit addressed. We have often consulted Japanese on this point and have been informed that what is said on such occasions, though actually addressed to the spirit of the departed, is intended to serve as solace for bereaved relatives. No public addresses to the spirit of the dead are allowed in Protestant Churches. At Catholic funerals they occasionally are given. A very beautiful French oration of this kind was published in the columns of the *Japan Mail* a few years ago. Japanese addresses delivered at memorial services usually contain a short sketch of the life of the deceased. The July number of the *Universalist*, the organ of the Christian Progressives, contains two addresses to the spirit of the late Dr. Cate."

As an instance we quote from the *Japan Mail* some extracts from an address made to the spirit of Dr. Cate who seems to have been a beloved missionary teacher and leader:

"How can we who have been taught and led by you fail to be stimulated by your example to do all we can to carry out your wishes? When you fell asleep, we were given strength. Pray note this in the spirit land. . . . Be at rest. The liberality, the sympathy, the patience, the many fine traits of character which your life taught us, along with your departed spirit, will ever abide with us. You will remain our teacher for all time. You are not dead. You live and work among us still. Mourn not your bodiless state, for the strength of your spirit is yet great. Let this comfort you in the other world."

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### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

A LIST OF THE WRITINGS OF WILLIAM TORREY HARRIS, FORMER U. S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION. By *Henry Ridgely Evans*. Washington: Gov't Printing Office, 1909.

Henry Ridgely Evans has contributed an important chapter to the 1907 report of the United States Commissioner of Education. It deals with pub-