BOOK REVIEW


Though little known to western readers, Takuboku Ishikara has influenced the development of Japanese literature by bringing back to the short, classical Japanese poem simplicity and freedom in both content and language. His poetry is autobiographical, full of longing for the things he lacked and appreciation for the precious, fleeting moment. He catches these moments and makes of them something intense and significant by his genius of expression, his dramatic quality, and his feeling for melody and rhythm. Yet to realize their full pathos and poignancy one should know something of his tragic life.

He received what education his father, a rural Zen priest, could afford. His poetic gifts were quickly recognized both at school and among the new poets of Japan. Marriage, however, brought upon him the responsibility for the support of his wife and child as well as of his parents and sister—a situation which he was unable to meet. They were desperately poor; their lives full of tragedy. The sister died; the father disappeared one snowy night.

His earliest poetry, written in the traditional short form under the influence of the idealistic romantic school, lacks individuality. But later, upon the advice of Tekkan Yosano, he tried the longer freer lyrics which were immediately successful, collected, and published under the title of Longings. His naturalistic tendencies soon ended, however, as years of hardships and contact with the injustices of life made of him a socialist. He was again writing in the short classical form, *A Handful of Sand*, written during these difficult years, created a sensation in the literary world because of the unconventionality of the subject matter and the simplicity of language.

At home there was discord between his wife and mother. Takuboku was in the hospital with chronic peritonitis. They were all ill, leaving no one but the aged mother to care for them. She collapsed, and they discovered that she had been suffering from tuberculosis for years. Sick as he was Takuboku cared for her until her death, and survived her by only one month. A week before his death, penniless and ill, he sold his third volume of poetry named *My Sad Toys* from the last sentence of one of his essays “Poems are my sad toys.”

In complete harmony with the content of this little book of poems, is its physical appearance with cover of Japanese design, hand-set type, and laid, deckle paper.

In conclusion we quote a few of the poems chosen at random.

O, the sadness of lifeless sand!
Trickling
It falls through my fingers
When I take it in my hand.

As a son of the hills
Thinks of the hills,
When in sorrow
I always think of you.

At nightfall,
A vague sorrow comes by stealth
And climbs up on my bed.

Balls of sand
That absorbed tears to the full!
How heavy indeed are tears!

Like to a kite
Cut off the string,
Lightly the soul of my youth
Has taken flight.

Never am I weary of watching
A wreath of smoke
That like a dragon,
Jumps out into an empty sky
Only to disappear.
BOOK NOTES


Reality and man's apprehension of reality form the theme of this hitherto unpublished letter of Emerson to Solomon Corner of Baltimore in 1842 in response to an appeal for advice in his religious perplexity. A facsimile of Emerson's letter is added, and the two letters of Solomon Corner with a foreword, notes, and analysis by his grandson, Willard Reed.


Turkestan is perhaps the most remote of all countries, most difficult to reach, and least changed by modern civilization. Here Mrs. Lattimore joined her husband to travel along the trade routes where for centuries silk and tea were carried from China to the West, and where life is still very much as it was in the days of the great Khans. The Lattimores traveled simply and subsisted as much as possible on the products of the land in order that they might learn about the ways and habits of life of the inhabitants.

In these letters, which chronicle the journey, Mrs. Lattimore describes vividly the life of the sledge drivers on the Siberian plains in the midst of winter, a Siberian village with log or mud houses on either side of wide snowy streets and green-domed church, the snow-covered villages where nothing was visible but the openings in snowdrifts and the little chimneys sticking out the top. She tells of Chuguchak, primitive, merry, and exuberant with the first signs of spring, with its frontier-mixture of races, Kazaks with rakish, white fur bonnets on ponies, Mongols in sheepskins with purple sashes on camels. Chantos and Tungkans in high red and black boots on jingling little sledges; of the Chinese capital city Urumchi; of Turfan which is completely Turki with arched gateways, carved balconies, gayly colored shops, and domes and mosques; and of Kashgar, larger and gayer, more splendid than the other towns.

They traveled by pony, cart, and camel both north and south of the Tien Shan or Heavenly Mountains, through black, spruce forests under glittering snow peaks, through desert and oases. They met migrating caravans, brilliant with reds and yellows, in search of fresh grass for their own welfare depending upon the welfare of their flocks; they lived as guests in the white-domed yurts of the Kazaks, eating their black bread and mutton, and drinking their kumiss.

And finally they crossed into India over the Karakoram Route, the most difficult trade route in the world, through five passes each over 16,000 feet high. This is a thrilling and exciting route. The way is lined with skeletons of dead animals and abandoned loads. They followed deep red gorges, winding river beds, steep valleys under pink snows and violet glaciers. They crawled up icy places where even the yaks needed help with their loads. From the top of the Khardong pass they looked back over a mass of rock and ice between walls of jagged mountains through which they came, and forward steeply down and far away onto green pastures, the spires of Leh, the silver thread which was the Indus River, and the snowy Himalayas.
ANNOUNCING
a new edition of
MARY EVEREST BOOLE
COLLECTED WORKS

Edited by E. M. COBHAM     Preface by ETHEL S. DUMMER
Four Volumes, $15.00 the set.

Mary Everest Boole was a pioneer in the study of mental hygiene. She compared the wisdom enshrined in ancient ritual and story with the methods of thought formulated in mathematics, checking both by the results of actual observation. By this means she was able to deal with questions of psychology applied to education, discovery and recreation, and to civic, national and international symbiosis. This collection of her works into four volumes is arranged in chronological order to bring out the development of her thought.

THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING CO.
149 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill.

AN ACCOUNT OF PSYCHOSIS
AND RELIGION

A LETTER TO A FRIEND

ANONYMOUS

An authentic description of the experiences of a college student facing insanity as well as an unusual chapter in religious experience.

Price $1.00

THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING COMPANY
149 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois
1935 Officers of
The New Orient Society of America

The Society was established for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between the Orient and Occident, and of promoting the study of the great cultural achievements of the East.

To further this object, a series of monographs will be published yearly under the editorship of American Oriental Scholars.

OFFICERS

Honorary President
Professor James H. Breasted

President
Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol

Vice President
Professor Martin Sprengling

Treasurer
Mr. John Payne Kellogg

Secretary
Miss Catherine Cook

DIRECTORS

Dr. Allan D. Albert
Mr. Edwin H. Cassels
Mr. Henry Field
Mrs. John Alden Carpenter
Prof. W. Ernest Hocking
Dr. Arthur Hummel
Prof. A. T. Olmstead
RELIGION WITHIN THE LIMITS OF
REASON ALONE

By IMMANUEL KANT

Translated with an Introduction and Notes by

Theodore M. Greene
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University

and

Hoyt H. Hudson
Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory, Princeton University

Kant's Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone serves, more than any of his other writings, to round out the philosophical system which he developed in the three Critiques. In it Kant examines the nature and significance of the religious experience, devoting special attention to the tenets and practices of Christianity, which he reinterprets with sympathy and originality.

In many respects Kant was a typical eighteenth-century thinker; but he was also a critic of his times. The Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone is a classic exposition of eighteenth-century deism and humanism at their best, revealing both their elements of strength and their limitations. Today, with deism and humanism widespread in England and America, it is peculiarly appropriate that a translation of Kant's important work should be made available. (No English translation has appeared since Semple's inadequate translation of 1838.) The book not only gives lucid and forceful expression to a significant aspect of the modern temper, but reveals its superficiality on many points and suggests a more profound approach to some of its problems.

Professor Greene's Introduction contains a survey of the eighteenth-century Pietism and deism in Germany, a description of Kant's religious background and training, and a summary of those doctrines in the three Critiques which constitute the philosophical basis for his religious theory. The book will be of value not only to scholars of the Kantian philosophy but to less advanced students of Kant's ethical and religious ideas. It is suitable for class use in colleges, universities and theological seminaries.

Pages lxxxv + 194

Price $3.00

THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING COMPANY

149 East Huron Street

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1934
Third Series of the Paul Carus Lectures

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PRESENT

BY

GEORGE HERBERT MEAD

Edited By ARTHUR E. MURPHY

WITH PREFATORY REMARKS BY JOHN DEWEY

Price $3.00

A posthumous work... of one of the most beloved teachers of philosophy and one of the most influential thinkers in contemporary American life. A book which everyone interested in present-day philosophical thought will, of course, read for himself.

—E. B. McGilvary. Journal of Ethics

The Philosophy of the Present should be read not only by metaphysicains, but also by those interested in the philosophies of history, law, and the social sciences, for these subjects badly need the thought of one who took time seriously without sacrificing the whole world in order to save man.

—Paul Weiss, The New Republic

THE REVOLT AGAINST DUALISM.
An Inquiry Concerning the Existency of Ideas.

By ARTHUR O. LOVEJOY,
Professor of Philosophy, The Johns Hopkins University.

The last quarter century will have for future historians of philosophy a distinctive interest as the age of the great revolt against dualism, a phase of the wider revolt of the 20th against the 17th century. THE REVOLT AGAINST DUALISM, Dr. Lovejoy's long awaited book, reviews this most characteristic philosophic effort of our generation.

Price $4.00

EXPERIENCE AND NATURE.

By JOHN DEWEY.

Irwin Edman writes: "The wish has long been expressed that John Dewey would some day produce a book making clear and explicit the metaphysical basis of his singularly humane and liberalizing philosophy of life.... With monumental care, detail, and completeness Professor Dewey has in this volume revealed the metaphysical heart that beats its unvarying alert tempo through all his writings. Price $4.00*

*A. L. A. recommendation.

THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING COMPANY

Chicago London
The GOSPEL of
BUDDHA
Edition de Luxe

COMPiled FROM ANCIENt RECORDS

BY PAUL CARUS

Illustrated by O. Kopetzky

An instructive and impressive exposition of Buddha’s Life, his doctrine, and his order. This edition is beautifully illustrated with drawings that reflect the true spirit of Buddhist art.

Boards Binding, $3.00

THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING COMPANY
149 East Huron Street Chicago, Illinois