

1961 Bukkyō Dai Nenkan 仏教大年鑑 (1961 Buddhist Year Book)

Tokyo: Bukkyō Dai Nenkan Kankō Kai 仏教大年鑑刊行会
(Buddhist Year Book Publication Society), 1960,
pp. 820, ¥1,500.

Publication of a Buddhist Year Book is a most well welcome event for the religious world of Japan. Here in the 820 pages which constitute this volume is to be found all the basic information needed to understand the structure and activities of Japanese Buddhism and much about Buddhism throughout the world. Much of the contents being devoted to directories, this can hardly be classed as "interesting reading," and yet at the beginning of each section is found a brief introduction which gives some insight into the nature of the activities, problems, attitudes, and actions of Buddhist leaders and organizations.

The first two sections—unfortunately the sections are not numbered—are devoted to general information about Buddhism in Japan (pp. 1—64) and throughout the world (pp. 66—112) with special attention to postwar developments, particularly the meetings of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, and

the Buddha Jayanti. Following these are sections devoted to the Buddhist denominations (pp. 120—220), and their subsidiary organizations (pp. 211—280), schools (pp. 281—338), kindergartens and nursery schools (pp. 339—414), social welfare institutions (pp. 415—450), cultural (pp. 451—514), political and economic (pp. 515—536) and legal (pp. 537—564) matters, a list of leaders in Japan (pp. 565—736) and overseas organizations and leaders (pp. 737—796), and finally statistics (pp. 797—820).

Anyone who wonders whether Buddhism is really dead, as some persons have been alleged to state, had better examine this volume. Incidentally, the advertisements are in some ways the most interesting part of the volume.

It is to be hoped that before long some enterprising organization will publish an English language edition with at least the most essential material found in this volume.