

**Bibliography of Standard Reference Books for Japanese
Studies with Descriptive Notes, Vol. IV, Religion.**

*Tokyo: Kokusai Bunka Shinkō Kai (The Society for
International Cultural Relations) 1063, pp. 181. ¥500.*

The K. B. S., as The Society for International Cultural Relations is commonly called, has placed every student of Japanese religion in its debt by publication of this handy bibliography of standard reference works on religion with descriptive notes. It will also make many very unhappy in the realization that they will never be able to read them all, — at least not in this life! This is a book that every serious student of Japanese religions MUST HAVE.

Because of the vastness of the material available the book is limited to works by Japanese scholars published since the Meiji Restoration, and even this is a carefully selected list. The contents include, besides the usual preface, an introduction by Dr. Hideo Kishimoto of Tokyo University, under whose guidance the project was carried on, the following chapters: I General, II Shintō, III Buddhism, IV Confucianism, V Christianity,

REVIEWS

VI Popular Beliefs, VII Periodicals, and then concludes with an index of authors and editors.

The arrangement of the book is generally excellent. There are few typographical errors. The English of most of the volume is also excellent. The chapters on Shinto, Buddhism, and Confucianism read naturally and smoothly, and there is variety in handling the material. The only comment that occurs in this area is regarding the rather general, but not entirely consistent, use of the somewhat cumbersome term "Shintoism" in place of the perfectly clear and simpler term "Shinto." For example, the first item in Chapter II (p. 16) is "Dictionary of Shintoism," the second is "A Dictionary of Shinto." If it is correct to refer to a "study of Shinto materials" there is no occasion to speak of "works on Shintoism" (p. 19), except possibly for variety and that does not seem to be the reason in this volume.

The chapters on Christianity and on Popular Beliefs are less well done, but the deficiencies are minor,

It is the first chapter, General, that leaves much to be desired. Very obviously no foreigner scholar revised the translator's text. Moreover, there are some very strange errors which make this reviewer wonder whether the person responsible for the "descriptive notes" actually examined the books described. What, for example, is meant by saying on page 2 that the Religions Year Book of the Ministry of Education was not published in 1961 and 1962, when it was; and why is it stated that their "contents remain the same every year" when the contents in fact are very different. One might also raise questions about both the propriety of irrelevant and, to this reviewer, entirely improper observations such as are found in item 271 (p. 146), which cause one to suspect that no competent scholar reviewed the comments before they were translated. But these are relatively minor matters. The volume is generally excellent and indispensable for all students of Japanese religions. W. P. W.