

**Sengo Shūkyō Kaisō Roku (Recollections of Religion
in Postwar Japan)**

*Edited by the Research Office of the Union of
New Religious Organization in Japan.*

*Tokyo: P I. Kyodan Publications, Co., 1963, pp.
354, ¥ 700.*

This volume of recollections regarding events in the religious world during the postwar period in Japan is an invaluable addition to the relatively meager records available today regarding what transpired during that crucial period. Beginning with the situation in this country at the time of the surrender and the arrival of the first units of the Occupation Army in late August, 1945, the volume de-

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scribes in considerable detail at times, but with noticeable omissions, the conditions that existed in various areas of the religious life of the country until the Occupation ended in April 28, 1952.

This is a presentation of the events in a journalistic style. It is not a carefully reasoned and documented account of those events. Consequently, it is of necessity somewhat fragmentary, as recollections usually are. Although its general approach is what might perhaps be described as fair or "sympathetic," which is to be expected from this organization, there is no lack of items unfavorable to or even sharply critical of the Occupation forces and the religious policy it pursued.

Of particular interest is a hundred-page section written by Dr. Hideo Kishimoto who acted in the dual capacity of advisor to Civil Information and Education Section of SCAP and as liaison for the Ministry of Education, and the religious world, especially Shrine Shinto leaders. It was a difficult role to perform, but he did it with consummate skill, even though the

reader gets the impression in at least one situation that he was not fairly treated by his own countrymen who were using him to influence Occupation policy.

At the end of the volume there is a valuable section of some fifty pages of documents with comments by Mr. Egyō Inoue who was in the Religious Affairs Section of the Ministry of Education during the entire period covered and who is regarded as an authority on the material he discusses.

This volume is valuable because it gives the recollections of those who were themselves participants in the events described. Although it contributes greatly to our understanding of those events, it should not be regarded as entirely accurate and, therefore, is not the last word as far as the actual events discussed are concerned. Its main importance lies in its clear presentation of the attitudes and impressions of those days that the participants have today — which in a way is quite as important as the facts themselves.

The book is can be ordered through the headquarters of the

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Union of New Religious Organiza- or through the International Insti-
tions in Japan (Shin Nippon Shūkyō tute for the Study of Religions.
Dantai Rengō Kai 新日本宗教団体 (W. P. W.)
連合会) which edited the volume,