

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1915.

THE REAL JAPAN.

*Japan To-day and To-morrow.* By H. W. Mabie. Pp. ix+291. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 8s. 6d. net.

THIS book makes little attempt to give the history of Japan or to describe the country or its political or naval and military development. It is, we think, a successful attempt to understand the Japanese temper, character, spirit, and genius. In material things the Japanese have altered altogether in the last sixty years, but in spiritual things they have altered very little. The traveller describing faithfully what he sees is usually ignorant of the things described in this book, but these are the things which it is most important for the statesmen of other countries to know. Mr. Mabie is an American, and he is anxious that Americans particularly shall look below the surface of things. He shows that the genius of a people eludes the direct search for it, and he looks for its revelation not in universities and courts, but in shops and fields and homes.

"It is a people whose government has been religious, whose religion has been governmental, and whose whole organised life has been like a garment woven out of the substance which it clothes, but does not conceal."

Customs have always had the authority of law. The soul of Japan is in Shintoism, which is no longer a religion; it is not only a living source of poetry, it is a profound national sentiment of tremendous energy. Strangers expressed only admiration for Japan forty or fifty years ago. As the Japanese realised that great resources were absolutely necessary for their existence, they turned to commerce and manufacture; then they were said to have become dishonest and their politeness had become insincerity. We have heard the same undiscerning kind of criticism of European people. The Japanese are in essentials just what they used to be. Their ways of thinking, their ideals, their standards of life, and their interpretations of the mystery of the world are different from ours, simply because for thousands of years they and we have lived unknown to each other. But these differences between us are only superficial, although Mr. Kipling holds another view.

The man who frequents the smoking-rooms of clubs and hotels cannot see the things described by Mr. Mabie, and ninety-nine per cent. of the business men who live in Japan and think they know all about it are quite ignorant of the intellec-

tual movements, the spiritual stirrings in the souls of those among whom they have their home, but with whom they do not live. The Germans specially have shown contempt for the Japanese; even their highest classes have shown in this way their intellectual limitation. The parrot-cry that the Japanese have no originality—that they are merely imitative—comes from unobservant men. The Japanese have a passion for work; their hands and brains are always on intimate terms. One and all they are artists, and artists always possess freedom and the energy of personality. *Jiu-jitsu*, the endeavour to set skill against force and intelligence against mass is emblematic of one great characteristic of these people, which is perhaps most visible in their art, "the full weight of thought without any weight of expression." The Japanese will probably solve for Europe many of its seemingly insoluble problems.

This book is one that ought to be studied not only by people who wish to know something of the real soul of Japan, but also by all people who wish to keep their own souls alive.

JOHN PERRY.

LAMARCK'S EVOLUTION THEORY.

*Zoological Philosophy: an Exposition with regard to the Natural History of Animals.* By J. B. Lamarck. Translated by H. Elliot. Pp. xcii+410. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 15s. net.

MR. ELLIOT has done a valuable piece of work in making a complete translation of Lamarck's "Philosophie Zoologique," which was published in 1809, half a century before Darwin's "Origin of Species," and is undeniably one of the evolution classics. He has enabled students of organic evolution who are unfamiliar with French, or who have been repelled by Lamarck's tedious style, to get a first-hand knowledge of the doctrines of one of the greatest of Darwin's predecessors. Recognising that the main interest of the "Philosophie Zoologique" is historical, Mr. Elliot has given a very literal translation, taking few liberties beyond breaking up some of the very long sentences, and altering words the meaning of which has greatly changed during the past century. A useful list is given of many of the French terms with the translations adopted. It must be confessed that there are many pages, especially those dealing with the classification of animals and with physiology, which are of little importance, but the value of having a complete translation is obvious. The alternative of making a selection of the salient passages is always a hazardous procedure. It seems to us that Mr. Elliot did wisely in translating the whole, and

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