

Mr. House's Japanese Episodes.

In this dainty bit of literary amber four fugitive sketches of Japanese life have been preserved for permanent use and pleasure. To lift its resin-colored covers, and set the mind in friction with its pages, is to become electric with new interest in the people whose domestic life is here portrayed. Mr. House is well-known as a writer on the bolder themes of Japanese politics; and in the thorny fields of amateur diplomacy, he has plucked as many roses as thorns. For the lighter and more attractive subject of Japanese domestic life, however, he shows an innate love which has found expression in a number of sketches full of insight, humor, and pathos. Like all lovers, he is perhaps a little blind, and where others see warts and moles, he is apt to be ravished with smoothness and lily-white purity. This, however, but adds to the piquancy and charm of his style and matter. Of the four episodes, one is of love among the lowly, one of personal adventure and travel, another of statesmanship, and a fourth of amusement in a native theater. In reprinting them from the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Magazine* and the *Tokio Times*, the author has carefully edited his work, by breaking it up into paragraphs and adding an occasional explanatory foot-note, which greatly adds to the pleasure of reading. Attractive as are the phases of Japanese life set forth in these pages, we cannot help asking whether it is not time that the more serious questions of justice and righteousness with Japan in the matter of treaties, be taken up by writer and publisher?

[James R. Osgood & Co. \$1.00.]