

all sects from Japan but the preface-writer's own. Without being a notable addition to the Japan library, it gives a phase of the modern life of the Japanese which is of great interest to the Christian and philanthropist.

In the long series of travellers' handbooks which has made English-speaking people all over the world known as the "red-book people," this one on Japan is not the least (2). Of Prof. Chamberlain's scholarship in Japanese, nothing need be said in the way of praise, for he has won even from the Japanese themselves the highly honorable post of Professor of Japanese and Philology in their Imperial University. Added to the scholar's felicitous and concise description in this book, is the practical information given by Mr. W. B. Mason, late of the Imperial Japanese Department of Communications. The volume is in very handy shape, comprises four hundred and sixty pages and, being printed in Japan under the eyes of the authors, is remarkably free from slips of the pen or printers' mistakes. The type is clear, and so are the numerous maps, which furnish the tourist with all that he requires. The itineraries are carefully stated and distances given, so that the person of average commonsense can travel with great comfort; and if to the accuracy of the printed guide he adds the ready help of a living courier, he cannot fail to have a happy time in the land where the day begins. In reading through this third edition, we have compared it with the second, and find a number of minor improvements, while the maps are much more numerous and of the best quality. In one sense this book, which is valuable to both the traveller and the stay-at-home, is an evolution towards perfection; for we have on our shelves Chamberlain's, Satow's and Hawes's volumes wherewith to make comparison; while the present volume contains all that is worth keeping in the bulky and expensive second edition of Satow, the cost is much less. We are particularly pleased that so much space is properly given to the Island of Shikoku, which is now accessible to the well-behaved traveller.

Two Books on Japan

1. *Japan as We Saw It.* By M. Bickersteth. 85. 2. *A Handbook for Travellers in Japan.* By Basil Hall Chamberlain and W. B. Mason. 8s. Both imported by Chas. Scribner's Sons.

THIS HANDSOME English book (1), in dress of dark blue with red bands, bears on its back the picture of a Japanese pilgrim, and on its sides a few suggestive lines indicating Fuji-san's crater edge, over which the cranes wheel in steady flight. Good paper, print, maps, pictures and index tell of careful book-making. The narrative is that of the two month's stay of a clerical English family in Fuji-yama land. A Bishop and his wife and daughter go out in the wilderness, as it were, to see whether Japan is a reed shaken by the wind. They find an earnest people struggling into new light and trying to make themselves the peers of the nations of the West. The story is told by a warm-hearted woman, in sympathy with her sisters and brothers that live in the far-eastern archipelago. That, among the peoples of Asia, there is none greater in signs of promise and proofs of serious determination to make progress than the subjects of the Mikado is the verdict of the author.

In this country of heavy walls, where there are so many doors to open, shut, slam, bang, keep locked and provide keys for, it is pleasant to think of the land of screens and sliding partitions, where the middle term between gate and *shoji* is lacking. In the autumn months, the ordinary *hibachi*, or fire-brazier with glowing charcoal, usually furnishes sufficient warmth. The great objection to stoves and fireplaces is the ugliness of stove-pipes out of doors, and the uncertain behavior of chimneys. In our land of steady habits in the earth's crust, a chimney is the very emblem of stability and respectability. So much so is this the case in England, that the chimney continued—the tile-pot—becomes the model of the gentleman's head-covering. In Japan, however, the chances of waking up at night to find that the chimney has become your bed-fellow are very strong, as the *fishin-uwo*, or earthquake-fish, thinks nothing of tumbling the bricks right into your bedroom. As to plaster ceilings, they are useful chiefly for lining the floor with, thus illustrating the fact that Dai Nippon is a land of paradoxes. Excepting some commonplace and ordinary observations and a good deal of detailed information about the missionary operations of the English Episcopalians, the chief episode described is that of the great earthquake of 1891. The descriptions, both in text and in picture, are very vivid, and to see the way nature has tumbled about the iron bridges and other proud engineering works of man is very humiliating to one's Caucasian conceit.

The author is a daughter of the Bishop of Exeter, and her brother is Missionary Bishop of Japan. The journeys were mostly over the beaten track, and the photographs are as a rule the same as those found in the average tourist's book on Japan. Some of them, however, which reveal the beauties of wood-carving at Nikko are fresh and striking. The information about the English Episcopal missionaries, nurses, deaconesses, preachers, pastors and Christian workers of all sorts is very full, and the statistics valuable. Indeed the book is but a sugar-coated missionary report, though well worth reading. The preface, by the Bishop of Exeter, is funny reading to an American, with its inaccuracies ("Perry won an entrance" in 1854, not 1852, Dr. "Griffith," "American Nonconformists," etc.), and its warning-off of