

MISCELLANEOUS REVIEWS

- H. Byron Earhart: *Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity*.
In: *The Religious Life of Man*, Frederick J. Streng, Series
Editor. Belmont, California, Dickenson Publishing Com-
pany, Inc., 116 pages.

This book is foremost intended for the student of Japanese religion who feels puzzled by the enormity of the phenomena of Japanese religious thoughts and practices. It wants to be a guide in the search for the unity in this diversity. As has happened in other fields, also in the field of religion the Japanese always succeeded in saving their identity when they were flooded with foreign influences. They were impressed by many foreign elements of a higher level than what they possessed themselves, but they always knew how to integrate them organically in their indigeneous culture. Their own culture never was destroyed or replaced by a foreign one; it was only enriched and strengthened. Prof. Earhart studied for three years (1962-1965) Japanese religion in Japan under Prof. Ichirô Hori, an outstanding authority on Japanese folk religion, and also did his own field research work in this country.* How he arranges the different periods of Japanese religion the reader can see from the disposition in his outline..

Part I. The Formation of Japanese Religion.—The Earliest Religious Tradition in Japan: Shinto, early Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, Interaction in the Formation of Japanese Religion.

Part II. The Development and Elaboration of Japanese Religion.—The Founding of a Japanese Buddhism: The Tendai and Shingon Sects.—Elaboration within Japanese Buddhism: The Pure Land, Nichiren and Zen Sects.—The Development of Medieval Shinto.—The Appearance of Christianity in Japan.—The Five Traditions: Development and Mutual Influences.

Part III. Fossilization and Renewal in Japanese Religion.—Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism in the Tokugawa Period, and Restauration Shinto.—The Meiji Restauration and Nationalistic Shinto.—Religious Currents from 1868 to 1945: Buddhism, Christianity and New Religions.—Religion in Postwar Japan.—The History and Future of Japanese Religion.—Notes.—Annotated Bibliography on Japanese Religion: Selected Works in Western Languages.—Index.

Of great value is the annotated bibliography at the end of the book. On new religions a comprehensive study on *Tenrikyô* could have been added; that by Henry van Straelen: *The Religion of Divine Wisdom (Tenrikyô)*. Japan's Most Powerful Religious Movement. In: *A.F.St.*, XIII (1954).

M.E.

* cf. H. Byron Earhart: Four Ritual Periods of Haguro Shugendo in North-eastern Japan. In *History of Religions*, V (1965), 93-113. By the same author: The Celebration of the *Haru-yama* (Spring-mountain): An Example of Folk Religious Practices in Contemporary Japan. In: *A.F.St.*, XXVII, 1 (1968), 1-24.