

BOOK REVIEW

Deutsche Luftfahrt (German Aviation), by J. H. Rathje. (Shanghai, 1943, Max Nössler & Co., 108 pp.)

This bilingual (German and Japanese) book deals in a clear, easily comprehensible manner with the development of German aviation from its early beginnings to this day, and it is a pleasure to study the little work with its fine photos, maps, and sketches.

All the forms of aircraft—planes, gliders, and airships—are briefly described, as well as their respective developments. The author—an expert—explains air navigation, blind flying, and blind landings according to the various systems. Another chapter describes flying at high altitudes with all the difficulties resulting from cold and lack of oxygen for both pilots and motors. Naval aviation has not been forgotten: there are interesting details about catapult starts and about the methods used to get seaplanes on board a mother ship in rough weather. Besides several technical chapters, there is one dealing with the pioneers of German aviation and revealing the silent heroism that has made German aviation what it is. Finally, the author also reviews the German Air Force and its most successful types of planes, once again showing himself to be an expert.—P. S.



Quand la Chine s'ouvrait. . . (Charles de Montigny, Consul de France), by Jean Fredet. (Shanghai, 1943.)

How shall we describe this book: as a historical study of the earliest relations between the European powers and China; as the thrilling biography of a versatile man; as the panegyric of a French patriot; as the dramatic epic of an outsider in his profession; as a description of Chinese officialdom and social conditions a century ago? All these descriptions apply to the book, and yet they do not exhaust it. Thus the work also deserves the attention of such circles as are not especially interested in China.

The central figure of the book, the first French consul in Shanghai, has found a biographer worthy of him. Just as this latter is versatile and by no means only a historian, so Montigny was open to all the phenomena of life. Born of French émigrés in Hamburg, he returned to France and took part in the French campaign in Spain and in the Greek war of liberation. Not until he was forty did he enter the French diplomatic service. He was appointed French consul in Shanghai, where he spent the longest and most important part of his career, interrupted only by special missions to Siam and Indo-China.

The main part of the book deals with his manifold activities in Shanghai. His post demanded a pioneer nature, and he possessed all the qualities it required: he had courage and enterprise for the

numerous journeys made for the protection of the scattered missionaries; he was inured to hardship; he displayed diplomatic skill and knowledge of human nature in his dealings with Chinese officials; dignity and reliability assured him the respect of his foreign colleagues; and all this was based on a boundless national pride. He was an exemplary representative at his post. But because of this very versatility and his stubbornness in the pursuit of what he judged to be right, he was not always popular with his superiors and even met with hostility. This was perhaps not only to be explained by the fact that in his professional training he was an outsider. On the other hand, it was this lack of professional prejudice that accounted for his success in direct negotiations with the Chinese and his expert knowledge and appreciation of China and her people.

Excellent notes and references in the appendix give added scientific value to this conscientious work. Clear, accurate printing and some good illustrations enhance the reader's pleasure in the book.—K. B.

Kleiner Deutsch-Japanischer Sprachführer (German-Japanese Pocket Phrase Book). (Shanghai, 1943, Max Nössler & Co., 90 pp.)

The publication of this handy booklet reflects the increasing interest taken in the Japanese language by Germans living in East Asia. Although it is specially arranged for residents of Shanghai—who will find not only a list of street names but also the right phrase in case of an air-raid alarm or a blocked road—it will also prove useful to Germans elsewhere in East Asia. General colloquial expressions, salutations, transportation facilities, war and politics, the weather, figures and prices, and a great many other subjects, are conveniently treated from a multitude of angles so as to offer a real help in case of language difficulties. There are many topical phrases, as, for instance: "I have left my inoculation certificate at home," or "What is wrong with my blackout arrangements?"—K.F.

Sinologische Arbeiten (Sinological Works). (Peking, 1943, Deutschland-Institut, 170 pp.)

To commemorate the tenth year of its existence, the Deutschland-Institut in Peking has issued an illustrated double number of its periodical *Chung Te Hsüeh Chih* under the title of *Sinologische Arbeiten*. It contains the following scientific essays written by German sinologists living in Peking:

Zur Kompilation und Überlieferung der Ming Shih-lu, by Wolfgang Franke;

Bulhari Omo. Die älteste Fassung der mandjurischen Stammesgeschichte, by Walter Fuchs;

Neue Typen grauer Shang-Keramik, by Max Loehr;

Das Lieh-nu-chuan und seine Illustrationen. Entstehung und Tradition bis zur Sung-Zeit, by Ilse Martin;

Kurze Einführung in die Technik der San-ch'ü, by Alfred Hoffmann;

Um die Metaphysik. Ein Briefwechsel zwischen Ku Yen-wu und Chang Erh-ch'i, by Hellmut Wilhelm;

Über einige Messer aus Anyang, by Gustav Ecke.

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Untersuchungen über den Aufbau der chinesischen Kultur. II Lokalkulturen im alten China. Teil 2: Die Lokalkulturen des Südens und Ostens. In our review appearing in the May 1943 issue, the third sentence of the second paragraph should read: "It might be a good idea to start with the chapter 'Conclusion,' which clearly and concisely. . ."

RECENT JAPANESE PUBLICATIONS

Torahiko Tsuchihiko, by Joji Tsubota.

A Record of the Wide Plains, by Seiichiro Sakai. (Tokyo, 1943, Rikugeisha, 245 pp., Yen 1.50)

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 Joji Tsubota's *Torahiko Tsuchihiko* is, in a word, a wholesome family novel, as is the case with almost all of his works. His theme is the world of children and the complicated world of grownups as reflected in the eyes of children. His pen comes alive when he writes about children, their joys and their sorrows. His works are loved by children and grownups alike. The story of this particular book is very simple:

The mother of the brothers Torahiko and Tsuchihiko and their younger sister Miyoko dies. Their father is called to the colors and is later killed in battle. Alone, the three children fight their way through the rough seas of their unfortunate life. They meet with kindness on the part of their cousins and with unsparing love on the part of a teacher in a girls' high school. The sincerity of the author prevents the story from becoming merely sentimental.

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 Seiichiro Sakai, the author of *A Record of the Wide Plains*, joined the Japanese forces in Malaya as a staff member of the Army Press Section at the outset of the Greater East Asia War. His book, however, pictures army life as experienced by Corporal Ino (probably the author himself) from the time when he was attached to a garrison on the Soviet-Manchoukou border in the autumn of 1937. Since there is no gunfire to be heard throughout the novel, it describes, as it were, a war without fighting. But the absence of actual fighting only serves to render the life of the garrison troops even more rigorous. In the severe cold—more than 30 degrees below zero in this snowy border area—we see the strain on the soldiers defending the border and the strict training and maneuvers they have to undergo every day.

One day some large units belonging to the garrison forces return after having completed their operations on the North China front. Corporal Ino welcomes them, imbued with a sense of respect for those who have seen actual fighting and have faced the manifold dangers at the front.

On a cold, windy day, Lieutenant Kishi appears, who has been attached as an officer to the company. Standing before his men, he shouts: "I am not a learned man. But I know how a man should behave. There is only one thing I have to say: an order must be fulfilled unconditionally. Those who do not obey my orders will be beaten. Understand? That's all."

Ino and his comrades were frightened. But, although Lieutenant Kishi was extremely strict, he was also unexpectedly kind to his men on such occasions as New Year holidays. He treated his men to a drink and sang with them. Ino was gradually attracted by Lieutenant Kishi's character.

One day Lieutenant Kishi ordered his men to shovel some snow away, but his command was not fully carried out. Lieutenant Kishi thereupon lined up his soldiers, had them announce their rank and name in a loud voice, and beat their faces one by one. After this impressive, formal scene, he said:

"Are you really soldiers of the Imperial Army? If you are ordered to shovel snow, you must do so even if you freeze to death. This is the traditional spirit of the Japanese soldier. Wash your rotten hearts right now. With your cleansed hearts, rewash the whole of Japan!"

Soon the soldiers began to long for action. Ino is reminded by a pamphlet sent to him by his wife of his old error of believing in materialism when he was a boy. The pamphlet analyzed the China affair and urged the renovation of Japan herself as a prerequisite for solving the China affair. Upon reading this, Ino felt as if he had received a blow in the face. He made up his mind to become a worthy soldier and asked Lieutenant Kishi to teach him the way for a soldier to live. Lieutenant Kishi said:

"I believe it is enough for us to act in accordance with the august command of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and offer our lives. I am always ready to die for the Emperor. That's all. That is the only belief by which I live."

At Changkufeng the Soviet and Japanese forces had an armed clash. Ino's detachment received marching orders, and the faces of his comrades shone with eagerness. Freight cars packed with soldiers rolled toward the northern border. White flowers were blooming in the wide plains. Ino thought he would be glad to die under his commander Lieutenant Kishi.

The novel shows us the Japanese intelligentsia awakening with the dawn of Japan. The China affair was an awakening to Japan as it was to Corporal Ino. It upset the entire foundation of the ideas cherished by a certain class of the intelligentsia. In the moment of life and death on the battlefield, every true Japanese realizes that the only way for him to live is to offer his life to the Emperor. With the China affair, Ino, a Japanese who once believed in materialism and put up a portrait of Hegel, returned once more to the battlefield of the Japanese spirit. We see a symbol of Japan in the figure of Lieutenant Kishi in *A Record of the Wide Plains*.—Tsumoto Narasaki.