is possible from Professor Caland's conclusions, these minutiae affect in no degree our appreciation of this most welcome contribution to our knowledge of the sacred texts of the Jaiminiyas, for which so much has already been done by his edition of the *Saṃhitā* itself.

A. BERRIEDALE KEITH.

JAPANESE NAMES : A MANUAL FOR STUDENTS AND ART-COLLECTORS.

By ALBERT J. KOOP and HOGITARŌ INADA. Part I. The Eastern Press. Three guineas net.

The difficulties connected with the pronunciation of English place-names and surnames are far exceeded by those which hamper the student of Japanese. In English there is at least an approach to phonetic rendering of the sounds, and the most ignorant mispronunciations seldom involve uncertainty as to the meaning intended.

The reader of Japanese names is confronted with difficulties of another kind and of considerably greater complexity. For example, in two of the best-known surnames, Fujiwara and Katō, the *fuji* and the *tō*—two elements without a sound in common—are written with the same Chinese characters 藤. Again, the characters 正 助 may be read *Seijo*, *Shōjo*, *Shōsuke*, or *Masasuke*, according to the class of name for the moment represented by them. Similarly, 吉 次 may be read *Yoshitsugu* or *Kichiji*; 定 一 may be read *Sadakazu*, *Sadaichi*, or *Teiichi*. Instances might be multiplied, but these are sufficient to give a hint of the difficulties involved in the reading of Japanese names.

In the work which lies before us the authors aim at quoting all possible readings for the characters used in writing names. At the same time they have attempted to lay down rules whereby the right pronunciation may with certainty, or at least with probability be selected from among the numerous alternatives.

Japanese Names may justly claim to be the first and only complete work of its kind in any language, and to judge from the instalment published succeeds in throwing all available light on the darkness of this perplexing subject. It should appeal to all students of the language, whether advanced or beginners, but it will prove especially useful to those who collect and describe Japanese works of art, for these bear inscriptions consisting chiefly of names and dates.

The main part of the work is occupied by a dictionary of Chinese characters with explanations of their readings in various

classes of name, whether used singly or, as is usually the case, in combination. The first few pages of this dictionary (which is to be completed in the three ensuing parts of the book)¹ appear in part i, together with a series of preliminary chapters, in some of which the underlying principles are explained step by step for the benefit of the beginner—although, as suggested in the Dedication, the more advanced student will find the work invaluable for reference.

Other chapters, accompanied by well-arranged tables and lists, deal with such subjects as the phonetic *kana* syllabary and the calculation of Japanese dates, while a well-selected list of “numerical categories” will prove of much service to the collector and cataloguer.

The needs of the beginner are studied throughout, but especially in a chapter on the analysis of signatures and kindred inscriptions, as well as in a preliminary list of the commoner characters found in Japanese names.

A. D. WALEY.

¹ Since this was written part ii has appeared.