

WILEY



Review

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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 5 (May, 1916), p. 377

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1779642>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 03:42 UTC

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Storied Italy.— **Mrs. Hugh Fraser.** London: Werner Laurie. 1916. Pp. 344. *Illustrations.* 12s. 6d. net.

A series of disconnected essays and sketches, containing impressions of scenes in mediæval and modern life. Among the studies are "A Roman Christmas," "Santa Susanna," "Signora Pistocchi," and a "Fairy Tale and an Earthquake."

ASIA.

Japan, the New World Power.— **R. P. Porter.** London: Humphrey Milford. 1915. Pp. xlix., 771. *Maps.* 6s. net.

This is a re-issue of the work which first appeared under the title of 'The Full Recognition of Japan,' and was reviewed in the *Geographical Journal*, March 1912. It contains an introductory survey of Japan's share in the Great War, and has been generally revised and brought up to date where necessary. The author emphasizes the disadvantage under which the Russians lay in the war with Japan on account of their limitation to a single line of railway. This was largely responsible for the ultimate success of Japan, in spite of the fact that at that time the Japanese had not reached their present state of readiness for war.

The physical characteristics of Japan are very briefly dismissed, but a detailed account is given of occupations and of the state of emigration. Unfortunately the census of 1915 is not yet available. The average annual number of emigrants is 200,000, half of whom go to China and the United States, and the other half to the Sandwich Islands, the Philippines, the South Sea Islands, and South America. The cause of the constant emigration seems difficult to determine, as the majority of emigrants do not come either from the poorest or the most crowded districts of the country. A full account is given of the training in the Technical Schools, the thoroughness of which has largely contributed to the industrial progress of the country and to the important part that the Japanese are now taking in the production of munitions.

Agriculture, forestry, and mineral production are dealt with in considerable detail. Japan is poor in iron ore but relatively rich in what is technically called sand-iron, with regard to which certain important and successful experiments have lately been made. The author makes various criticisms on the methods employed in Japanese factories and especially notes the want of specialization in machine construction. This he attributes mainly to the absence of sufficient skill in manufacturing on a large scale. He has however a sanguine belief in the great industrial future of Japan. A most useful portion of the book is that in which he deals with the Japanese development of Korea, Formosa and Manchuria. A full account is given of the soya bean in Manchuria, which is proving very valuable for the extraction of oil and the manufacture of food for cattle as well as for vermicelli and other products.

On the whole, this book should prove useful for reference to all interested in the progress of Japan, though it is written in a somewhat unreadable style.

A. W. A.

An Official Guide to Eastern Asia.— Published by the Imperial Japanese Government Railways. Vol. 1. Manchuria and Chōsen. Vol. 2. South-West Japan. Vol. 3. North-East Japan. Vol. 4. China. Tōkyo. 1914-15. 6½ × 4¼ inches. *Maps, Plans and Illustrations.*

This series essays to dethrone Murray and Baedeker, so far as the Japanese Empire and East Asia generally are concerned, and it seems likely to