

power. Disraeli, more than any other man who was ever a power in English political life, was adept at flattery; and Hamilton, consciously or unconsciously, gives some examples of Disraeli's art at its fulsomest.

Hamilton himself will not expect general agreement in his characterization of Gladstone, nor endorsement of all his remarks on Labouchere and Bradlaugh. But no one who is familiar with the House of Commons of 1886-1892, and with the personal history of the House from 1832 to 1886, will hesitate to endorse, without reservation, his splendid tribute to Smith, as leader of the House of Commons. Whitbread, Poulett Thompson, Cobden, Bright, and Chamberlain were all commercial men who greatly distinguished themselves in Parliament. But until Bonar Law, in December, 1916, became leader of the House of Commons, W. H. Smith was the only man, drawn directly from the ranks of commerce, who had held that office; and in the history of the House from 1832 to the Great War, there never was a more business-like, more conciliatory, more self-repressing, or more effective leader than Smith.

In writing of the House of Commons itself, Lord George Hamilton is most informing when he is recalling its methods of business prior to the reforms in procedure which have been made since 1882. He is interesting also when he describes the oratory of the House; and he raises a quite debatable question when he gives it as his considered judgment that fluency and dexterity of speech rank far too high in the public life of England. "They are", he adds, "very useful adjuncts to a man of courage, principle, and high ideals, but nothing more, and useless and dangerous when dissociated from such attributes."

Hamilton went to the India Office in 1874, and in detailing his work there as under-secretary, he has written one of the best descriptions of the work of the office, and of its organization, that has ever been embodied in English political memoirs. One other value in these reminiscences has yet to be mentioned. There is more than once in these pages the most sweeping and strongly-worded indictment that has been written or uttered of the Manchester school of politics by any man in the front rank of English political life. There has been a party truce in Parliament, in the constituencies, and in the press since the war began. The truce did not extend to Lord George Hamilton's study when he was at work on his reminiscences.

EDWARD PORRITT.

*The Development of China.* By KENNETH SCOTT LATOURETTE, formerly of the College of Yale in China. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. xi, 273.)

THE characteristic feature of this book is successful condensation. Having felt the need of a short treatise for use in college courses wherein only a few weeks can be devoted to China, the author has un-

dertaken to provide an introduction to the history, institutions, and present-day problems of China.

First of all, Professor Latourette explains how geographical factors have affected the life and civilization of the Chinese people, accounting among other things for their long isolation. Next comes a brief sketch of early Chinese history. This is followed by a descriptive account and critical estimate of Chinese culture. The historical narrative is then resumed with reference to the increasing contact between Occidental nations and China during the period from 1834, special attention being given to American-Chinese relations. The last chapter, on present-day problems, which might have been the best, is perhaps the least satisfactory because of its too strict conformity to the general plan of avoiding detail.

At the end there is a selected bibliography with useful descriptive notes. Among things which might advantageously have been added, a chronological table of important names and dates would be especially valuable for reference.

The conciseness of treatment will explain and excuse most of the few faults. It is not easy to achieve at once brevity of statement and the sufficiency of explanation necessary to avoid creating false impressions. Thus, it is inadequate to say "women . . . have not been as frequently educated as men" (p. 137); likewise, that with the revolution women were granted the suffrage in Kwantung province (p. 227); with regard to the murder of Margary, that "a British officer lost his life on the Chinese side of the frontier" (p. 167); and, with regard to the Boxer uprising, simply that it was an anti-foreign movement (p. 191). Lord Napier was not instructed actually to "open negotiations directly with the Chinese government" (p. 144). The indemnity exacted in 1842 was scarcely such as to establish "the precedent that China must pay in cash for her unsuccessful wars" (p. 147). The treaty of 1842 was *a*, but not *the*, "precedent for" the extraterritorial system as it exists to-day (p. 147). Did Burlingame "propose" to the Chinese that they send an official mission abroad (p. 156)? The surplus of the American share of the Boxer indemnity was not "returned" to China (p. 195); it was remitted. There should be added to the list of troops participating in the Relief Expedition of 1900 (p. 193) the French and the Italians. It is scarcely accurate to say with regard to Russia, Japan, and the Portsmouth Peace Conference that "both sides were ready to welcome President Roosevelt's intervention" (p. 200). For "1915", on page 205, there should appear 1917.

Professor Latourette does well in pointing out that "Chinese culture, produced almost unaided by one race, is a monumental tribute to the ability of that race, and a sound basis for optimism for the future" (pp. 10-11). He gives an excellent summary of the characteristics of the old government. He rightly emphasizes the fact that the transformation of China begins, as regards appreciable evidences, with the war with Japan in

1894-1895. In reference to contemporary problems and the future: "Were China left to herself, she would probably, after a period of exhausting civil strife, work out a stable government, but the jealousies and the special interests of the Powers can not allow her to engage in such a struggle" (p. 238).

The book is well written, well printed, and should prove very valuable for the purpose for which it is intended. It brings together within brief compass a variety of essential information which will greatly facilitate the work of classes in Oriental history and contemporary politics. In producing this work Professor Latourette has rendered a distinct service both to student and to teacher.

STANLEY K. HORNBECK.

*A Political History of Japan during the Meiji Era, 1867-1912.* By WALTER WALLACE MCLAREN, Ph.D. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1916. Pp. 380.)

IN 1914 the Asiatic Society of Japan published in its transactions a volume of *Japanese Government Documents* edited by Professor W. W. McLaren, then of Keiogijiku University. This collection, covering the period from 1867 to 1890, has been of the greatest value to students of Japanese politics and history, and the introductory essay is one of the best brief surveys of the political history of that amazing generation. Few could have used the volume without regretting that its publication in Tokyo would inevitably limit its circulation abroad. And this regret is not entirely removed by the recent appearance of *A Political History of Japan during the Meiji Era, 1867-1912*, by the same author.

The latter volume is really an expansion of the introductory essay in the former, the first half following very closely, with some slight changes and additions, the eighty-one pages of the earlier work, and as frequent references are made to the *Japanese Government Documents* it is essential that this volume be at hand for consultation. The second half of the present volume is new matter, covering the period from 1890 until 1913. In the general field there is already the valuable treatise of Dr. Uychara on *The Political Development of Japan, 1867-1909*, and in the opinion of the reviewer this will not be replaced by Dr. McLaren's more extended study. In fact each may serve as a useful interpreter of the other.

In brief, Professor McLaren describes the great events and movements in the political history of Japan during the reign of the Emperor Meiji. He is a severe critic of the bureaucracy, as becomes a member of the Keiogijiku faculty, and the picture of Japanese political development which he portrays is a gloomy one. The presentation, by topics, is not infrequently confusing through overlapping chronology, and students will note the lack of citations to authorities, especially when statements are given which contradict views usually accepted. As an in-