

*Reviews and Notices*

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*A History of Japanese Colour Prints.* By W. VON SEIDLITZ. (London: W. Heinemann.) Price 25s. net.—Collectors and lovers of Japanese colour prints have no cause to lament the want of information respecting the great masters of the art and the peculiarities of their work. Anderson, Fenollosa, De Goncourt, Bing, Strange, and others, have each contributed something to our knowledge of this fascinating phase of Japanese art. The author of this new work has naturally had the advantage of the experience of his predecessors in the field, and an access to many extensive and choice collections not enjoyed by other writers. The result is a comprehensive work dealing with all the varied phases of the art from the earliest to modern times. The book is illustrated with many pictures, some of which are in colours.

*Great Painters of the Nineteenth Century.* By LÉONCE BÉNÉDITE. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons.) 10s. 6d. net.—The colour reproductions which form thirteen out of the 400 odd illustrations to this work are extremely unsatisfactory on the whole, and are calculated to bring discredit upon colour-printing, which is capable of giving infinitely better results than those here shown. The black and white reproductions also are not in all cases so good as they might be, but they do not call for so strong a protest as the colour work. However, the outline given by M. Bénédite of the development of art in the Nineteenth Century is clear enough, the matter being written in a biographical and narrative vein, avoiding criticism. The only fault to be found with the work in this respect is that the space given to the various national schools has been very unequally apportioned. The French school occupies more than half the book, the rest being divided between nearly a dozen other nationalities. Recent developments in England come in for scant recognition; Mr. Charles Shannon's work of 1909 is referred to, certainly, but there is no mention of Mr. Wilson Steer, or Mr. W. Rothenstein, to take two painters only, who contemporaneously with Mr. Shannon have each given a definite turn to the character of present day English painting.

*British Costume during Nineteen Centuries (Civil and Ecclesiastical).* By Mrs. CHAS. H. ASHDOWN. (London: T. C. & E. C. Jack.) 12s. 6d. net.—One of the effects of the recent revival of pageantry has been that of stimulating interest in the costumes worn by past generations, and the literature of the subject, already pretty

extensive, has grown considerably in consequence. Dissatisfaction with much of the existing literature led the author of this new work to undertake a methodical research among the records in the manuscript department of the British Museum, in order to gather precise information regarding the styles in vogue at definite periods. The outcome of this research is the substantial volume before us, in which, by means of several hundred illustrations, the wearing apparel worn by both sexes at successive periods, from the earliest days down to Georgian times, is exhibited in orderly array.

*Traditional Methods of Pattern Designing.* By ARCHIBALD H. CHRISTIE. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press.) 6s. net.—In this copiously illustrated handbook, intended as an introduction to the study of decorative art, the author has selected a large number of the more common designs, grouping together those which show a more or less close kinship to one another, in order to point out the development of the most important decorative ideas. Thus, after the preliminary chapters on "The Origin of Decoration," "Typical forms of Ornament," and "Classification of Patterns," he deals successively with those designs which embody floral elements, geometrical designs, designs formed of animal *motifs*, band designs, borders and crestings, superposed patterns, counter-changing elements. The treatise is one of considerable importance as bearing on the evolution of decorative art, and in this connection the opening chapter contains some observations of much value.

Messrs. Henry Young & Sons, of Liverpool, are publishing an illustrated and descriptive catalogue of the engraved work of the late Sir Francis Seymour Haden, P.R.E., upon which Dr. Harrington has been engaged for some time past. The volume is illustrated with 250 plates, representing practically the whole of the artist's etched work, and only a very limited edition is being issued.

Mr. Carl W. Hiersemann, of Leipzig, announces the forthcoming publication of an illustrated periodical for the study of the arts and industries, civilisation and ethnology of Eastern countries, under the title of *Orientalisches Archiv*, the object of which will be to give authoritative information about the Near and the Far East, the regions of Mohammedan civilisation in Asia, Africa and Europe, the East Indies, and the spheres of Chinese and Japanese influence, and to promote the knowledge of Eastern thought. Dr. Hugo Grothe, of the Munich Oriental Society, has been entrusted with the editorship of the review.