

in schools and colleges, read his tales, essays, and didactic compositions, with unabated avidity.

During the last years of his life Bankim Chandra wrote much on Hindu religion, and his great work on Krishna, representing him as a man, a warrior, and a statesman, created a profound impression. Then he took up the study of the Vedas, delivered a course of lectures on Vedic religion, and undertook with the present writer the compilation of a comprehensive work of selections from sacred Hindu literature for the use of his countrymen.

Bankim Chandra was made a Rai Bahadur by the Indian Government, and the Queen-Empress made him a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire. He died shortly afterwards, mourned by his countrymen, and leaving none behind him worthy to fill up his place in the literary world of Bengal.

ROMESH C. DUTT.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

The Legend of Isisinga (R̥ṣyaśṅga).—Dr. Lüders (in an interesting paper read before the Göttingen Kön. Gesell. der Wissenschaften, 1897) has discussed the Sanskrit and Pāli versions of this story. He comes to the conclusion that the Pāli verses, as distinct from the prose, are reproduced from the same old and popular ballad from which the oldest Sanskrit authorities also drew; that neither Sanskrit nor Pāli borrow from one another; that each has in certain passages the oldest form; and that the Pāli prose is inconsistent with the Pāli verses. He also discusses the illustrations of this legend on the Bharhut Tope (pl. xxvi), at Amarāvati (Fergusson, pl. lxxxvi), at Devandahalli (Ind. Ant., ii, 142), and at Bangkok (Fournerau, "Le Siam Ancien," pl. xix). The Amarāvati identification is here made for the first time.

The history of this popular gibe against the ascetics may not be of much importance for the history of Indian thought.

But so critical a discussion of the versions of it is of much importance for the history of the texts in which they occur. No one will be surprised that Dr. Lüders uses the critical method, and has been able thereby to arrive at useful conclusions. The wonder is that scholars of reputation should still waste good ink and paper in ranging such similar versions side by side without attempting any such critical discussion of their historical relation. We have already protested against this method (above, pp. 199, 200, and in the 1896 issue, p. 377); and the present work by Dr. Lüders encourages the hope that such protests will soon be no longer necessary.

Buddhist Jātakas.—The third volume of the Jātaka translation is all printed, and will be published very soon.

Semitic Studies.—A volume entitled "Semitic Studies," containing literary contributions on every branch of Semitics, has been edited by Mr. George Alexander Kohut, in memory of his father, the late Dr. Alexander Kohut, author of the "Aruch Completum." The articles are preceded by the portrait, and a biographical sketch of the deceased written by his brother, Dr. Adolph Kohut. The importance of the volume can best be seen from the following list of its contents:—

- F. Max Müller, On Ancient Prayers (Extracts from Lectures delivered at Oxford).
- M. Steinschneider, Lapidarien, ein culturgeschichtlicher Versuch.
- Cyrus Adler, The Cotton Grotto—an ancient Quarry in Jerusalem, with Notes on Ancient Methods of Quarrying.
- J. Barth, Die Pölel-Conjugation und die Pölal-Participien.
- Charles A. Briggs, A study of the use of לָב and לִבָּב in the Old Testament.
- K. Budde, Die Ueberschrift des Buches Amos und des Propheten Heimat.
- T. K. Cheyne, The Book of Psalms; its Origin and its Relation to Zoroastrianism.

- Hartwig Derenbourg, *Le die Rimmōn sur une inscription himyarite.*
- B. Felsenthal, *Zur Bibel und Grammatik. 1. Kimchi oder Kamchi? 2. Erklärung von Amos, vi, 10.*
- M. Friedlaender, *Jehudah ha-Levi on the Hebrew Language Kuzri ii, §§ 67 to 80.*
- Julius Fuerst, *Spuren der palästinisch-jüdischen Schriftdeutung und Sagen in der Uebersetzung der LXX.*
- M. Gaster, *The oldest version of Midrash Megillah, published for the first time from a unique MS. of the tenth century.*
- M. J. de Goeje, *Quotations from the Bible in the Qorān and the tradition.*
- Hermann Gollancz, *Translation of the Targum of the Amidah.*
- W. H. Green, *The Diction of Genesis VI-IX.*
- Max Grünbaum, *Renan über die späteren Formen der hebräischen Sprache.*
- S. I. Halberstam, *Annotation to the "Arukh Completum" (in Hebrew).*
- Halévy, *L'enterrement de Jacob d'après la Genèse.*
- A. Harkavy, *Sa'adya on the Khazars (in Hebrew).*
- Hartwig Hirschfeld, *Notiz über einen dem Maimūni untergeschobenen arabischen Commentar zu Esther.*
- Marcus Jastrow, *An Analysis of Psalms LXXXIV and CI.*
- K. Kohler, *The Testament of Job. An Essene Midrash on the Book of Job, reëdited and translated with introductory and explanatory notes.*
- Samuel Krauss, *Aegyptische und syrische Götternamen im Talmud.*
- Mayer Lambert, *De la formation des racines trilitères fortes.*
- M. Lazarus, *Erklärung einer Talmudstelle.*
- L. Lewysohn, *Töledoth ba'ale hayyim, Notes on the Zoology of the Talmud (in Hebrew).*
- Immanuel Löw, *Marginalien zu Kohut's Aruch.*
- D. S. Margoliouth, *On the Arabic version of Aristotle's Rhetoric.*
- A. Neubauer, *Some unpublished Liturgies attributed to R. Sa'adya Gaon.*

Gustav Oppert, Ueber die juedischen Colonien in Indien.

George Alexander Kohut, Correspondence between the Jews of Malabar and New York a century ago.

Samuel Poznański, Aus Qirqisānis' Kitāb al-anwār w'al-marāqib.

Theodor Reinach, La deuxième ruine de Jéricho.

L. A. Rosenthal, Einiges über die Agada in der Mechilta.

S. Schechter, Notes on a Hebrew Commentary to the Pentateuch in a Parma MS.

M. Schreiner, Beiträge zur Geschichte der Bibel in der arabischen Literatur.

Moïse Schwab, Mots grecs et latins dans le livres rabbiniques.

C. Siegfried, Beiträge zur Lehre von dem zusammengesetzten Satze im Neuhebräischen.

H. Steinthal, Character der Semiten.

H. L. Strack, Ueber verloren gegangene Handschriften des Alten Testaments.

Benjamin Szold, The eleventh chapter of the Book of Daniel.

C. Taylor, On Codex de Rossi 184.

Hugo Winkler, Die Hebräer in den Tel-Amarna Briefen.

Possible Site of Kuṣināra. — Extensive excavations are now, we understand, being made into the mounds of ruins at Navandgarh, to the north of Bettiah, where stands the well-known Aṣōka-edict pillar. From an exploration of the country along the line of these pillars, which stretch north-westwards from Patna, Dr. Waddell, in 1893, formed the opinion that these pillars marked the route of Buddha's last journey to Kuṣināra, where he died; and also that many topographical reasons pointed to the possibility that the ruins at 'Navand' fort might prove, on digging, to be those of the 'Nirvāṇa' (or more properly Parinirvāṇa) stupas. On Dr. Waddell's recommendation Babu P. C. Mukerji, who has been making archaeological excavations at Patna for the Bengal Government, was recently sent to explore the country thereabouts for the site of Kuṣināra, and on making a few superficial incisions into the largest mound at Navandgarh, he disclosed the base of an enormous

stupa about 300 feet in diameter, and exhumed some bricks with Aṣōka-like characters. As famine was prevailing there, Dr. Waddell asked the Commissioner, Mr. Bourdillon, whether he could not arrange to have the place fully excavated by famine-relief labour. This is now being done, and, as the ruins are undoubtedly very old and have been little disturbed for ages, the results are likely to prove highly interesting, even should the place turn out to be some other site than that of Buddha's death.

Royal Asiatic Society's Medal.—The Committee of Selection have chosen Professor Cowell as the first recipient of the Society's Medal.

Persian Manuscript on Geometry.—We have received from India a unique Persian Manuscript on Geometry, and shall be glad to show it to anyone interested in the subject.

GOLD MEDAL.

The Council has resolved that to commemorate the Sixtieth Year of Her Majesty's reign, a Gold Medal be founded by the Royal Asiatic Society.

Such medal shall be awarded in recognition of distinguished services in Oriental research.

The services referred to shall be the publication of a book or books in English, or of an edition of an Oriental Text with introduction and notes in English, calculated to further the objects of the Society as laid down in Rule 1.¹

The first medal will be awarded in the year 1897; subsequent awards will be at intervals of not less than three years; and no award will be made, even after such interval, unless fitting recipients be forthcoming.

The President will nominate every three years to the Council three gentlemen to form a Selection Committee to choose the recipient of the medal, it being understood that the Committee will be assisted in forming their judgment by the advice of Professors of Oriental subjects at our Universities, and of such other scholars as they shall think fit to consult.

The nomination of the members of the Selection Committee, and the recommendation by that Committee of the Medallist, shall be subject to the final approval of the Council.

Lord Reay, with the approval of the Council, has chosen as the Selection Committee to nominate the Medallist for 1897—

1. The Right Hon. Sir M. E. GRANT DUFF, G.C.S.I.,
F.R.S., Vice-Pres. R.A.S.,
2. Sir CHARLES H. ELLIOTT, K.C.S.I.,
3. Sir RAYMOND WEST, K.C.I.E., Vice-Pres. R.A.S.;

and those gentlemen have consented to act as the Committee.

¹ 1. The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland is instituted for the purpose of investigating the Arts, the History, and the Literature of Asia; and of facilitating intercourse with Eastern peoples by an accurate interpretation of their customs, their feelings, and their beliefs.

Subscriptions are invited to provide for the cost of founding the medal.

The following have been already received or promised:—

	£	s.	d.
The President, Lord Reay	5	5	0
Mr. F. F. Arbuthnot	2	0	0
Mr. B. H. Baden-Powell	1	1	0
Mr. H. Beveridge	1	1	0
Mr. E. L. Brandreth	1	1	0
Mr. E. G. Browne	1	1	0
Dr. O. Codrington	1	1	0
Professor E. B. Cowell	5	0	0
Dr. R. N. Cust	1	1	0
Professor Donner	1	1	0
Sir M. E. Grant Duff	4	0	0
Mr. R. W. Frazer	1	1	0
Dr. M. Gaster	1	1	0
Mrs. Gibson	1	1	0
Sir Frederick Goldsmid	1	1	0
Major-General Gosset	1	0	0
Mr. R. Heap	1	1	0
Sir W. Wilson Hunter	3	3	0
Mr. W. Irvine	1	1	0
Mr. H. C. Kay	2	12	6
Mr. J. Kennedy	1	1	0
Mr. F. W. Lawrence	1	1	0
Dr. G. W. Leitner	1	1	0
Mr. Guy Le Strange	1	1	0
Mrs. Lewis	1	1	0
Professor D. Margoliouth	1	1	0
Professor Barbier de Meynard	1	0	0
Mr. F. D. Mocatta	5	0	0
Sir William Muir	3	0	0
Professor F. Max Müller	2	0	0
The Marquess of Ripon	2	0	0
Mons. Emile Senart	2	0	0
Mr. R. Sewell	1	1	0
Mr. C. Tawney	1	1	0
Dr. T. H. Thornton	1	1	0
Mr. M. J. Walhouse	1	1	0
Mr. T. Watters	1	1	0
Sir Raymond West	3	0	0
Mr. A. N. Wollaston	1	1	0

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