

NOTICES OF BOOKS

A Catalogue of the Tohoku University Collection of Tibetan works on Buddhism
Edited by Y. Kanakura, R. Yamada, T. Tada and H. Hadano and published by
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Not the least of the handicaps which embarrass students of Tibetan Buddhism has been the lack of convenient and accurate sources of knowledge about the range, content, and accessibility of non-canonical Lamaistic literature. Professor Tucci's conspectus in his 'Tibetan Painted Scrolls' provides a helpful framework; but for detailed information this catalogue of non-canonical books in the possession of the Tohoku University, forming a sequel to the Complete Catalogue of the Sde-dge edition of the Canons published twenty years ago, is of unrivalled usefulness. Their collector, Mr. Tada, stayed and studied for a long period at the Se-ra Monastery near Lhasa, and accordingly the library is principally representative of the dominant Yellow-Hatted Sect. Of its 229 volumes, the contents of which are listed under 2083 items, the complete works of Tsoñ-kha-pa and other leading Dge-lugs-pas occupy more than half. Most of the remainder consist of detached treatises emanating from the same Sect, along with the works of Bu-ston and some historical and miscellaneous literature taken from outside. The whole is satisfactorily arranged under twenty-four Sections according to a system explained in a brief and lucid Introduction (Japanese and English). Each item appears under its Tibetan title (usually with Roman transcription), accompanied by a Japanese translation and a brief English description. A detailed index is lacking, but hope is held out that this deficiency will be made good in a separate volume.

In Professor Hadano's words "it will be seen that the present collection provides excellent materials for the study of the Dge-lugs-pa Sect. It is also of unique value as materials for the study of the history of both Tibetan and Indian Buddhism". He and his colleagues are to be warmly congratulated on completing this arduous undertaking despite economic and other difficulties created by the War.

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