

MORE BOOKS

Lord Chaitanya: A Biographical Critique, Vol.1, Bimam Bihari Majumdar. Translated from Bengali by Jibendranath Siddhanta, International Centre for Bengali Studies, Calcutta, 1997, pp.178, Rs. 200

This book has a somewhat misleading title. It is not, as it claims to be, a translation of Majumdar's classic work on Chaitanya Studies, *Chaitanya Charita Upadan* (first published in 1938). Actually, it is something of a gloss/commentary on Majumdar's work, disconcertingly close to what in traditional Indian parlance might be called a 'tika'. There are palpable differences between the original and the translated versions that may be attributed to the translator's 'bhakti for the Lord' (p.i). Incidentally, Majumdar, coming from a well-known Vaishnav family, did not allow his bhakti to come in the way of professionalism.

Also, Majumdar's original title would have been more correctly translated as 'Biographical Sources on the Life of Chaitanya'. Ideally, the translator's comments on Majumdar's handling of various Vaishnav texts should have come as an Introduction/Preface rather than as random insertions at places. Hopefully, the subsequent volumes of the work will overcome this problem.

AMIYA P. SEN

Integration of Endogenous Cultural Dimension into Development, edited by Baidyanath Saraswati, for Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and D. K. Printworld, New Delhi, 1997, Rs. 560

This is Volume 2 of the 'Culture and Development Series' published by IGNC. The material is based on a Unesco-sponsored workshop held at IGNC, April 1995. It questions the modern methods of development which, borrowed from the experience of the industrialized world, have brought about neither peace nor harmony, neither alleviation of poverty nor socio-economic equality. The authors call for serious rethinking of the current models of development. The volume

includes several case studies with special reference to the Asian situation.

Shiva's Other Children: Religion and Social Identity amongst Overseas Indians, David James Mearns, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 1995, Rs. 395

By using ethnographic approach, Mearns examines the nature of the social organisation and religious practices of the Indian population living in the urban centers of Malaysia, particularly in the town of Melaka. Instead of the picture of placid solidarity of a minority population, there are conflicts and interactions inherent in it. This, to Mearns, is due to the large cultural and cosmological repertoire available to the Hindus in Malaysia which acts both to unite and to divide them. A study of these diverse interactions helps Mearns to synthesise certain theoretical premises of urban development and global processes.

On Certainty, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Translated into Hindi by Ashok Vohra, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, 1998

This is the second (with a third promised in the jacket) of Vohra's translations into Hindi of Wittgenstein's works which were originally translated from German into English. As such they contrast sharply with such scholarly works, also published by the Council, as the translation in English from Tibetan of Jnanagarbha's Commentary on *Samdhinirmochana-Sutra* by John Powers. Since English translations of Wittgenstein are now parts of the syllabi in the Hindi-speaking world, the Hindi translations have an assured market in those students who have little access to philosophical works in English. It is a matter of, perhaps unfortunate, fact though that those who pursue analytic philosophy at the research-level are typically competent in English. The translations thus exploit the sad inequality of our philosophy students. It is of some concern that these items are published by a premier council of research while,

as mentioned in the jacket, the translator himself was in charge of the Council.

Exploring Kinnaur & Spiti in the Trans-Himalaya, Deepak Sanan and Dhanu Swadi, Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi, pp. 336, Rs. 450

Kinnaur and Spiti are two of the most fascinating regions of India fringing the Tibetan plateau. The general state of knowledge about these regions is scanty. This attractively designed and moderately-priced book provides the needed information about this region of the trans-Himalaya and enable both the prospective visitor and the armchair traveller to get an overview of the land and its people. There is also detailed information on the rich cultural heritage and numerous trekking routes of the region.

The Muse and the Minorities: Social Concerns and Creative Cohesion, edited by Shernaz Cama and Sudhir Chandra Mathur, The Steering Committee, The Muse and the Minorities, New Delhi, pp. 414, Rs. 250

The attempt to try and impose a dominant, centralised culture has given rise to ethnic anxiety and ensuing fundamentalism. This volume represents the papers and the proceedings of an international seminar, held at New Delhi from 20th to 22nd September 1996, devoted to this issue. The contributors include Sitakanta Mahapatra, Mulk Raj Anand, Keki Daruwalla, Martin Kampchen, Ayyappa Paniker, Darsan Singh Maini, Geeti Sen, Chidananda Dasgupta, and Aziz Haider among others. The proceedings include some rather frank discussion on issues such as multiculturalism, secularism, the writer in exile, and alienation and theatre. The seminar was sponsored by India International Centre, Sahitya Academy, Delhi Parsi Anjuman and Konard Adenauer Foundation of Germany.

R. BATABYAL/N. MUKHERJI

BOOKS RECEIVED

Facets of Development: Studies in Karnataka
edited By Vinod Vyasulu
Rawat Publications, New Delhi
1997, pp.382, Rs.650

Understanding Religious Phenomenon
G. C. Nayak
Dharmaram Publications, Bangalore
1997, pp. 94, Rs.120

Nuclear Politics in South Asia: In Search of an Alternative Paradigm
B. M. Jain
Rawat Publications, New Delhi
1994, pp.199, Rs. 275

Jnanagarbha's Commentary on Just the Maitreya Chapter from the Samdhinirmochana-Sutra: Study, Translation and Tibetan Text
John Powers
Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi
1998, pp.156, Rs. 250

Federalism and Decentralisation: Centre-State Relations in India and Germany
edited by Gert W. Kueck, Sudhir Chandra Mathur and Klaus Schidler
Mudrit 1998, pp. 286, Rs. 850

Prakriti: The Integral Vision
Volumes 1-5
General Editor Kapila Vatsyayan
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and D.K. Printworld, New Delhi
1997, Set Rs. 3000

Intercultural Dialogue and the Human Image
Maurice Friedman at Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts
edited by S.C. Malik and Pat Boni
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and D.K. Printworld, New Delhi
1996, Rs. 600

Sri Vaishnavism and Social Change
Kandadai Seshadri
K. P. Bagchi & Company, Calcutta
1998, pp.180, Rs. 240

Women in Indo-Anglian Fiction: Tradition and Modernity
edited by Naresh K. Jain
Manohar Publishers, New Delhi
1998, pp. 226, Rs. 450

A Possible India: Essays in Political Criticism
Partha Chatterjee
Oxford University Press, New Delhi
1997, pp. xii+310

Communalism Contested
Achin Vanaik
Sage Publications, New Delhi, 1997