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the author has made "careful and extensive use of all available sources."

Phases of his subject neglected by Mr. Smith are the Negro politicians' relation to the Independent movement, the Greenbackers, and the Grangers. Preoccupation with racial and political matters gives the work a two-dimensional character lacking in the stuff of realism. For example, the biographical sketches reveal that a significant proportion of the Negro Congressmen were sons of wealthy white planters, and that these men together with others of Northern origin were the products of a training and of sectional or class associations that set them apart strikingly from their field-hand constituents. Mr. Smith makes note of Booker Washington's observation that the Negro Congressmen were "the aristocracy of the race," but is led only to the curious conclusion that, "like the white aristocrats, they had the Southern ideal that a gentleman must take part in politics. Later on they saw there was a better chance in business and left politics." This leaves something to be desired in the way of completeness! Again Mr. Smith asserts that "nothing could be more erroneous" than to say that the disfranchising clauses of the new constitutions adopted around the turn of the century "are manipulated to allow all whites to vote." Here again considerable is left to be said.

The "third dimension," the starch and substance of realism missing from the work of the old school are the very wants supplied by the new school of revisionists.

C. VANN WOODWARD

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This book differs from any other book on Japan known to the author. Its approach and treatment is that of the social anthropologist, and it deals more fully and completely with all the phases and relationships of a single village than does any other work.

The author and his wife, who fortunately for him was able to speak Japanese "fluently," spent a year and a half in field work, a full year in the village of Suye, which is located well south in the southern island of Kyushu. Through certain Japanese friendships, especially it would seem through the help of a young man resident of the village who was also a college graduate, the author was able to see almost every aspect of the village life, to check and recheck his findings, and to reach a reasonable interpretation of what he saw. This is without doubt the most informing book available in English, and probably in any language, on the social relationships in a Japanese village.

After a brief historical chapter to acquaint the reader who may be wholly ignorant of Japanese history there follows a series of chapters on Village Organization, Family and Household, Forms of Cooperation, Social Classes and Associations, The Life-History of the Individual, Religion, and Changes Observable in Suye Mura. Finally there are five short but very useful appendices, perhaps the most interesting of which are translations of some speeches by priests and local officials. The book is very effectively illustrated by excellent photographs and a few charts.

It is wholly impossible to give in a review any resumé of even one of these chapters, so full are they packed with factual matter. While a few of the customs differ somewhat with those of villages, especially north of Tokyo, with which the reviewer is familiar they bear the ring of reliable reporting. The
author's interest as a social anthropologist being somewhat different from that of an economist makes it a little difficult for the reviewer to agree at all places. Also there is weakness in the writer's dealing so completely with the local life of the village, in spite of the fact emphasized at various places, and especially by Professor Radcliff-Brown in his Introduction, that the village life is fast being broken down and bound up with that of the nation and of the national and world markets. It is a little discouraging to find in so excellent a study the mercantilist lament that Suye sends out some goods for money but then has to send out the money for things it needs and appreciates more.

The book seems to the reviewer to stress too much the grosser aspects of life and to pay too little attention to the beauties and delicacies of the surroundings and of human relationships. He doubts whether "work with the soil makes a man conscious of . . . sex" (p. 99) any more than work in a coal mine or at a dry-goods counter. Doubtless sex plays a great part in the life of any people and deserves much attention but the fact that such matters are everywhere shrouded in secrecy, as the author states, even in Japan, (p. 179) forces foreign writers back upon their own "interpretations" of what they do see and hear (and imagine?). Probably this is the most difficult of interpretation of all the aspects of the life of a strange people.

No specialist on the Far East can afford to be without this book, but the general reader should supplement it by such an account as is given in the equally reliable book, My Japanese Year, written a quarter-century ago by Professor T. H. Sanders.

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Except for topographical peculiarities and a few details of culture, the description of Tangier Island (some 1,100 people) in Chesapeake Bay might be that of Matinicus Island off the coast of Maine or Harkers Island in Core Sound, North Carolina. The study was completed in 1931 when, as the author states, shore contacts spelled the end of the island's earlier isolation. "No attempt is made to bring this investigation up to the very moment of publication." Though patterned after the works of Lynd, Blumenthal, Sims, and others, Hall was forced by a dearth of documents and printed data, to depend upon direct observing and listening. Consequently there is an abundance of approximation and a paucity of precision. At a number of points it would seem that more definite statistical and case material could have been obtained. Also it is questionable, especially as one thinks of Junek's study, whether an island with a cooperatively supported doctor, five practical nurses and no midwives, movies, and other evidences of contact can be referred to properly as "so thoroughly isolated." (See Preface) For comparative purposes a sketchy description is included of less isolated Smith Island about six miles to the North, a community of "about the same" number of people as Tangier Island.

This interesting little volume suggests the need for more efforts at standardized methodology, comparable procedures of investigation and report where homogeneous and specialized types of communities are considered. Also in the interests of measurable social change it would seem desirable to make re-studies of such communities every decade or two.

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