

## BOOK REVIEW

TADHKIRAH-I TALIB AMULI, by Lieutenant-Colonel Khwajah Abdur Rashid. Karachi, 1965. Pages 138.

This book is a biographical sketch of Talib Amuli, the Poet Laureate of the Court of Emperor Jahangir, along with a selection of his verses. Very little is known about Amuli: his *divan* also is not yet published. Khwajah Sahib took great pains in collecting the necessary material about him.

This compilation is, no doubt, a piece of historical research. Although small and mainly of the nature of an outline, it may serve as an initial guide book to the students of literature and history, who want to do work on the composition and trends of the Mughal Court in the seventeenth century.

Lieut.-Colonel Rashid has shown a keen sense of historical criticism, especially in the determination of Talib Amuli's date of birth, of his true age at the time of his elevation to the status of a Poet Laureate and of the date of his death. The author also took special pains to establish the causes of the Poet's migration to India and record important episodes of his life. The work on the whole is a good effort.

There are, however, two important omissions. The sketch remains incomplete in that it fails to expound and examine the poetic trends of the time of Talib Amuli. Secondly, it does not give a general introduction to or a brief account of the literary achievements of the Poet. Talib Amuli, historically speaking, holds an important place in the Indo-Persian poetic and literary development. The Indian poets had begun to develop their own traditions and patterns of Persian poetry. A thorough research in the period of Talib Amuli is, therefore, very essential for the rediscovery of the historical past and its influence on future development. By giving a selective representation of Talib's verses from one of the earliest manuscripts, Lieut.-Col. Rashid has given a good incentive in this direction.