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The translator, Mr. Glenn W. Shaw, is well-known in Japan as a devotee and translator of the modern literature of the country, and his skill in translating the Japanese language into English is admitted by all who can understand the two languages, to be so flawless and admirable that the translation reads almost as natural as the original.

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\* \* \*

"Mr. Glenn W. Shaw judiciously introduces "Mediocrity" with an account of Futabatei's career—a singular one. Futabatei was originally a nationalist who studied Russian for his country's advantage in emergency, but Russian literature transformed him into a "library socialist" without means, and duly into a novelist and journalist. "Mediocrity" and his other works are considered the first real display of modernism in Japanese literature. His book is a strange medley of fineness and coarseness, photographic detail and mental posturing. . . . Admiration is due to the Tokyo publishers, who have printed the book with uncommon correctness and proportion."—*Times Literary Supplement, London.*

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—*The Japan Chronicle.*