

# WILEY



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Review

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equally. Thus if Palestine ultimately becomes entirely—that is to say, overwhelmingly—Jewish, it will become so not by artificial means but as a consequence of natural growth.” Meanwhile, the writer would naturally prefer that the “controlling power” should be England, either directly or indirectly through Moslem hands. He however adds, “Turkish rule is by no means unfavourable to the Jewish development in Palestine, and a change may very well be for the worse.” A Palestine nominally in the Turkish Empire but practically autonomous with a wide measure of self-government might be the safest solution of the thorny problem of the “Holy Land.”

It may be added that there are a number of interesting illustrations of Jewish activities in Palestine, and also an exhaustive index.

M.

## AFRICA

**Native Life in South Africa.**— **Sol. T. Plaatje.** London: P. S. King & Son. [1917.] Pp. 352. *Portraits.* 3s. 6d.

The principal theme of Mr. Plaatje's book is the Natives' Land Act passed in 1913 by the Union Parliament. Mr. Plaatje is a Mosutu, the editor of a Sechuana newspaper published at Kimberley and author of a collection of Sechuana Proverbs. His object in his new work is to show that the Natives' Land Act works injustice. He writes with knowledge and gives full references to authorities (though he has omitted to provide an index). His book deserves careful study. Since it was written the native problem in South Africa has, however, entered upon a new stage, and the views expressed by General Botha when giving evidence before the Transvaal Labour Commission (see pp. 209–210) do not express the attitude of the Union Government in the sense Mr. Plaatje would have us believe. General Smuts, in one of his notable speeches to London audiences, dealt frankly with the native question, and—with obvious allusion to the bill before the Union Parliament for the creation of native reserves—declared that the Schedule to the Act creating the Union might yet prove to be the most important part of that Statute. The schedule deals with the administration of the Native Territories—Basuto, Swazi, and Bechuana-lands—should they come into the Union, and makes it unlawful to alienate any land from the tribes inhabiting those territories. The carrying out of this principle—namely that the native has an inalienable right to land sufficient for his needs—coupled with the right to develop a civilization that shall be real and not a bastard copy of European ways, will afford the surest guarantee of the eventual solution of the greatest of South Africa's problems.

F. R. C.

**Croquis et Souvenirs de la Nigérie du Nord.**— **Isabelle Vischer.** Preface by **Dr. F. Sarasin.** Paris and Neuchatel, Attinger Frères. [1917.] Pp. 140. *Sketch-maps and Illustrations.*

Since Mrs. Larymore gave us her account of “A Resident's Wife in [Northern] Nigeria,” now nearly ten years ago, we do not recollect seeing any impressions of that country from the pen of a white woman who had her home there. Now Mrs. Vischer, who is also the wife of an official in Nigeria, publishes a series of letters giving her impression of the country and people. A French-speaking Swiss, her angle of vision differs somewhat from that of Mrs. Larymore, and, so far as these letters go, her interests are concentrated on the natives and their land; only slight references to the life of Europeans in Nigeria will be found in them. Mrs. Vischer from the first fell under the spell of Africa, and her sympathy with its people is revealed in every page of