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Review: Archæological Survey of Nubia

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time and attention during his sojourn in the country to a study of Chinese institutions from every point of view. Little enough is told us about the geography of the interior, as the author has directed his observations principally to the treaty ports and more civilized centres. On the whole the volume supplies a comprehensive picture of the Celestial Empire, and may be said to be thoroughly up to date, which is saying a good deal for its utility, considering the far-reaching changes of the past few years.

## AFRICA.

### ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NUBIA.

'The Archæological Survey of Nubia. Report for 1908-9.' By C. M. Firth. Cairo: Government Press, 1912. 2 vols., large 4to. *Plates and Maps*. £E2.

The work of the archæological survey of the portion of the Nile valley which will be inundated by the raising of the Aswan dam has been noticed in the *Journal* (July, 1911, pp. 68-9). The river-level will be affected for some 100 miles up to Korosko, permanently covering many remains of antiquity along the banks. It is important, therefore, to put these on record whilst still accessible, and this is being done in a thorough and elaborate manner by the survey, of which the reports of the first two seasons have now been issued. These cover the river from Shellal to the neighbourhood of Dakka, and deal mainly with cemeteries; the temples, except those on the island of Philæ, being above the threatened level. The examination of thousands of graves, extending from the pre-dynastic times of Egypt to Christian and Moslem times, throws considerable light on the history and ethnology of the region, confirming the southward movement of culture up the Nile valley. On the hills behind the temple of Kalabsha, Mr. Firth believes, the graves of the dreaded Blemmyes of Roman times have been found, and his argument appears very plausible. The larger monuments, for the reason given, do not come in for consideration; but a mud-brick fortress at Ikkur, near Dakka, partly Egyptian Old Empire (3rd dynasty?) and partly Middle Empire (12th to 17th dynasties), is described, with plans and views. The admirable series of plates illustrating the interments, and the finds of pottery, inscriptions (translations of these should have been added), implements, scarabs, beads, etc., add much to our knowledge of the peoples of the Nile valley. A series of maps on the ample scale of 1:25,000 accompanies the report, and there are detail plans on larger scales.

It would be well if Egyptologists could come to an agreement as to local nomenclature. In this Report we find such varied spellings as "Taifa" and "Teifa," "Naga ed Deir" and "Naga ed Der." The cemeteries investigated are indicated by numbers instead of by local names; it would be much more convenient if they were named after the nearest village or other topographical feature. And there can be no further need to continue Dr. Reisner's "C group" and "X group," when these are now generally recognized to represent the Middle Kingdom and Byzantine-Pagan periods respectively.

F. A. EDWARDS.

### THE THONGA TRIBE.

'The Life of a South African Tribe.' By Henri A. Junod, of the Swiss Romande Mission. Vol. 1, "The Social Life" (1912). Vol. 2, "The Psychic Life" (1913). Neuchâtel: Imprimerie Attinger Frères; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 15s. *net each volume*.

The Thonga (pronounced T-Honga) are a Bantu tribe inhabiting that part of South-East Africa which lies between St. Lucia bay and the Sabie river.