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Review

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is of unique value in authority, its style of production would seem hardly to justify its price.

'Italy To-day.' By Bolton King and T. Okey. (London: Nisbet. 1909. Pp. xii., 414. 6s.) This volume has already been recognized as an authority on the intricate questions of Italian home affairs, and the new edition has not only been brought up to date, but considerably expanded. The student of economic geography will find here a plethora of facts and figures, the latter properly adapted to English usage.

'Grieben's Guide Books: Lakes of Northern Italy and Milan.' (London: Williams & Norgate. 1909. Pp. 153. *Maps*. 3s.) This seems to be a good ordinary guide, but suffers noticeably from indifferent translation in parts. Its chief recommendation is its handy size.

'Bosnia and Herzegovina.' By Maude M. Holbach. (London: Lane. 1910 (*sic*). Pp. 249. *Map and Illustrations*. 5s.) This volume, with its excellent photographs, gives an attractive account of a country little known to the tourist, but probably soon to become better known. The style is light and pleasant reading, and the book, though mostly a personal narrative, will be found serviceable to intending travellers in the country.

## ASIA.

### SIKKIM AND BHUTAN.

'Sikkim and Bhutan: Twenty-one Years on the North-East Frontier.' By John Claude White. London: E. Arnold. 1909. 21s. *net*.

A veritable land of enchantment is that far end of the Himalayas which includes Sikkim and Bhutan—of enchantment, that is to say, in all that pertains to those lasting impressions which are derived from the most magnificent scenery that the world can produce. But it must be confessed that the enchantment is largely tempered by certain physical disadvantages, amongst which are to be reckoned a plague of leeches and the persistent trouble of a heavy rainfall. Possibly these two great plagues are intimately related. The memory of Bhutan (across an interval of nearly fifty years) recalls firstly the wide flat spaces of the Duars, thickly covered with dense grass, through which an elephant or a rhinoceros could push his way with difficulty, and beneath which tigers could sneak along the narrow tracks trodden by the hosts of smaller game. Then came the forest growth of the foothills, with magnificent trees and a spread of bamboo jungle such as is unknown in the undulating plains of the Indian peninsula. These filled the low steaming valleys and reached upwards to 10,000 feet of altitude. Beyond this, again, past the forests where the long grey beards of lichen drooping from the branches lent an air of venerable age to the moist scenery, and where leeches curled themselves in myriads in the tangled undergrowth, is the Bhutan of Mr. Claude White, spreading itself in majestic grandeur to the cold passes of Tibet; crowned with a magnificent array of snow-capped peaks, with here and there open valleys and grassy undulations, carpets of flowers, and all the glory of scarlet rhododendrons massed in such a blaze of colour that the eye is almost wearied with its profusion.

Mr. White is by training an engineer whose opportunities of dealing directly with the native officials of this Eastern frontier land specially qualified him for the interesting political duties which he was long ago called upon by the Indian Government to undertake. His sympathetic nature and power of ready adaptability to strange circumstances and surroundings have been valuable assets in the making of his career, but it is only his love of adventure and his deep appreciation of all that is beautiful in nature and art which render him capable of presenting to the public a book so full of interest as that which we have just read. It is not often