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Review: Two Indian Tribes

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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 5 (Nov., 1909), p. 558

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1777287>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 07:40 UTC

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## REVIEWS.

## ASIA.

## TWO INDIAN TRIBES.

'The Mikirs.' From the papers of the late Edward Stack, edited, arranged, and supplemented by Sir Charles Lyall. London: Nutt. 1908.  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Pp. xvii. + 183. *Price 7s. 6d.*

'The Meitheis.' By T. C. Hodson. Pp. xvii. + 227. *Same publisher, size, and price.*

At a time when it is becoming more and more recognized that a training in anthropology must be given to those whose duties, whether administrative or commercial, will take them among the native races of the world, the appearance of this admirable series of monographs is especially welcome. It is now many years since the Government Press at Shillong started to issue grammars, vocabularies, and other works dealing with the peoples inhabiting the eastern part of the Indian Empire. But with this series the Government has broken new ground. The fault of the earlier publications was that they were too official, if that be a fault. They were issued in the familiar blue paper covers, and the typography often left much to be desired. But this new series has nothing of the blue book about it, and is admirably printed and well got up. Moreover, the earlier series was almost entirely linguistic, whereas this is of general ethnological interest, and although chapters on the language and grammar are very rightly included, these are subservient to the rest of the work. In addition the books contain a number of illustrations, some in colour, and of these those by a native artist in Mr. Hodson's monograph call for especial mention.

It is impossible in this notice to do more than summarize the contents of each work, especially as there is nothing of an especially geographical nature in either. Each book follows the same lines, and contains chapters dealing with the habitat, appearance, distribution, dress, dwellings, industries, games, laws and customs, religion, folklore, and language. In addition, Sir Charles Lyall has added to his book, a chapter on the position of the Mikirs in the Tibeto-Burman family. The scope of each book is sufficiently shown by these chapter-headings, and when it is remembered that the authors are such authorities as Sir Charles Lyall and Mr. Hodson, every one may rest assured that the information given is thoroughly reliable and up to date.

In conclusion, it may be permitted to congratulate the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, on having put this coping-stone to the work already done. It has placed ethnologists under a debt of gratitude, and it is to be hoped that other governments will follow its lead, and that before long we shall have a similar authoritative set of monographs dealing with the other native races of the British Empire.

H. S. K.

## EARLY HISTORY OF CEYLON.

'The History of Ceylon from the Earliest Times to 1600 A.D., as related by João de Barros and Diogo do Couto.' Translated and edited by Donald Ferguson. Colombo: 1909. 445 pp.

In this publication, which has been reprinted from the Journal of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Mr. Ferguson has translated all the passages relating to Ceylon to be found in the decades of Barros and Couto, prefixing thereto