Review: British East Africa

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that about the time of the third Egyptian dynasty an important transformation of the population began, due to an admixture with Negro blood. These "Archaic-Nubians," as Dr. Elliot Smith calls them, showed a marked change in physical characteristics and in culture, which now first became differentiated from the culture of Egypt. Whilst in later periods the culture again showed Egyptian predominance, the admixture with the Negroes became more and more pronounced. The outstanding feature of the "survey" seems to be the light thrown upon the origin of the Barabra or Nubians of the present day. These are evidently the descendants of the admixture of the ancient Egyptians and Negroes.

"The process of racial blending," Dr. Elliot Smith writes (Bulletin No. 3, p. 27), "took place on the frontier of Egypt by the grafting of a more or less continuous series of Negro elements on to the original Egyptian population of Lower Nubia."

"One curious result of the Negro admixture in Nubia," Dr. Elliot Smith tells us (Bulletin No. 4, p. 19), "has been that the average length of the cranium has undergone a progressive shortening—the skull of the archaic Nubians (Reisner's B group or Late Ancient Empire) is shorter than that of the early dynastic and predynastic population of Nubia; that of the Middle Nubians (C group or Middle Empire) is shorter still, and this process of abbreviation is carried a stage further in the Byzantine Nubians (*i.e.* Nubians of 200 to 600 A.D.) and the modern Barabra. When it is recalled that the Negroes who entered Nubia in the times of the Ancient Empire were people of small stature, and that the smaller Negroes inhabiting the upper Nile possess short, relatively broad crania, the evolution of the distinctive cranial characters of the Nubians becomes less surprising and less enigmatic than it seemed at first sight, when we had in mind only the extremely dolicocephalic Negroes found in the cemeteries of more recent dates in Nubia."

There is much suggestive matter in these reports; and it is a pity, for purposes of study and reference, that the pagination of the *Bulletin* is not consecutive, and that one cannot get a complete account of the "survey" without reference to quite a separate publication—the Annual Report. Without this or some other indication it is impossible to locate many of the cemeteries excavated, which are denominated only by numbers.

F. A. EDWARDS.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

'In Africa: Hunting Adventures in the Big Game Country.' By John T. McCutcheon. *Photographs and Cartoons*. Indianapolis. The Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1910.

'Grand Gibier et Terres Inconnues: Afrique Centrale.' By Maxime de Bary. 2nd edition. Paris: Librairie Plon. 1910. 10 *fr.*

Each of these volumes has qualities which give freshness and individuality to the now often-told tale of big-game hunting in British East Africa. Mr. McCutcheon writes just as a man would talk of his adventures, and when the narrator can spin a good yarn (as in this instance) the result is excellent. Cartoonist to one of the leading American newspapers, Mr. McCutcheon has further lightened his letterpress with numerous humorous sketches. The Akeley expedition, of which he was a member, visited the Tana river and Kenya districts, and also the Guas Ngishu plateau and Mount Elgon. For a time he and his companions joined forces with Mr. Roosevelt's safari. Hunting adventures apart, the most interesting chapters in the book relate to Mount Elgon and its wonderful caves. The description of the ascent of the mountain is very

vivid, and is accompanied by a number of fine photographs. Incidentally the author has shrewd observations about the natives and the white settlers, and in a concluding chapter he deals with questions of outfit, climate, etc.

M. de Bary's account is welcome partly because it is that of a Frenchman ; we get, that is, a new view of a subject already extensively treated by British and American writers. Again, M. de Bary purposely omits many of the technical details which often make hunters' books wearisome, confining himself to recording his own experiences and observations and those of his companion, M. Jean Lefebvre. The value of the book depends, therefore, on the author's powers of observation and narration, and M. de Bary proves his possession of a satisfactory measure of both gifts. As in Mr. McCutcheon's book, the most interesting part of his story deals with the Mount Elgon district. The travellers were here in imperfectly known country, and the record of their journey has original value. One of the difficulties of African travel is illustrated by the statement that to communicate with their Wandorobo guide they had to employ seven men and eight languages ; another, in the attempt of a hostile tribe to get rid of the safari by bringing presents of poisoned milk. The whole story is vivaciously told. There are many illustrations, and a good map is given.

F. R. C.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.

'Brazil.' By Pierre Denis. London : Fisher Unwin. 1911. Pp. 388. *Maps and Illustrations.* 10s. 6d.

South American commercial interests are among the most important in this country to-day, and although the Argentine probably ranks first among the Latin republics in respect of public estimation as a field for investment, while its chief exports are of a higher annual value than those of Brazil, the larger territory possesses a wider range of sources of wealth, in coffee, rubber, and various minerals. A remarkable tribute to these is found in the enormous commercial development which is taking place in spite of the fact that the finances of the country have only lately been put on a satisfactory footing, and that the habit of revolution is not quite forgotten by some Brazilians. It is well, therefore, that the South American series is now extended to cover Brazil, and that a work on the land, its resources and its history, as comprehensive as possible for so vast a territory, is brought within reach of English readers. Moreover, Mr. Miall's translation preserves much of the attraction of the original, written in the best of descriptive languages, and the translator has added a chapter on history, while Mr. Vindin supplies a statistical review of industries and commerce. The general physiography of the country is well brought out by the original writer, though not on any very regular plan, and as an appendage rather than an introduction to his study of natural products and economic conditions. However, the volume is adequately mapped and illustrated, and on the side of economic geography there is much to be learned. Certain well-known features of economic development in North America, such as the process of settlement following, not forerunning, the construction of railways, are reproduced here in the south, and while demonstrating this, M. Denis draws the contrast between the long period when settlers were contented to know only the eastern seaboard of the United States, and the immediate necessity found by Brazilian colonists of surmounting the wall between the littoral and the interior plateau.

O. J. R. H.