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Review: British East Africa

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arrived at by the author in a short cold-weather tour in India made some years ago with the object of enabling him to form a judgment of "the results of fifty years of Crown rule." The first eighty pages are descriptive of the tour, but the description is slight and incomplete, and, as geography, of little interest or value. The author conscientiously discussed with numerous officials and non-officials, English and Indian, most of the questions of present interest. Men who know India will agree with the conclusion that the most urgently needed improvement in our administrative system is the restoration of the District Officer to the position he formerly held, when it was possible for him to be in intimate personal touch with the people of his district. As an old Anglo-Indian once put it, he should be able to talk to the old women in the bazaars, and enjoy doing it.

W. H. A. W.

'The Peoples of India.' By J. D. Anderson, M.A. (The Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature.) (Cambridge: University Press, 1913. Pp. x., 118. *Maps and Illustrations*. 1s. net.) This book gives, in somewhat discursive style, some account of the work of the late Sir H. H. Risley, Sir G. A. Grierson, Mr. W. Crooke, and others, on the races, castes, languages, and religions of India. It is unfortunate that the author was not able to delay publication until after the issue of Mr. Gait's report on the census of 1911, which gives the last word upon the subjects dealt with. Eight illustrations of caste types are given, but they are not referred to or discussed in the text, and their titles are not self-explanatory to the ordinary English reader. A more convincing and representative selection might easily have been made. We should not be surprised to find the ordinary reader in sympathy with Mr. Nesfield's position. The population map at the end of the book gives a division of India into natural regions which has now been abandoned. The name of Sir G. A. Grierson, which occurs more frequently than any other in the text, does not appear in the index.

W. H. A. W.

AFRICA.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

'Through Jubaland to the Lorian Swamp.' By I. N. Dracopoli, F.R.G.S. 44 *Illustrations and 2 Maps*. London: Seeley, Service & Co., Ltd., 1914. 16s. net.

The value of Mr. Dracopoli's work in his expedition from Kismayu to the Lorian swamp in 1912-13, has been officially recognized by this Society. He set himself to solve one of those "problems of exploration" to which attention was called in the *Journal* for November, 1911, and he accomplished his task in the face of many circumstances tending to discouragement. Not the least of these circumstances was the knowledge that no sensational discoveries were to be expected. The general character of Jubaland was already known. To travel interminable miles over a desolate scrub-covered plain, with the likelihood of dying from thirst, disease, or the spear of a Somali, is not to the ordinary man an inviting prospect, especially if the object be simply to demonstrate to what extent a certain swamp sends its overplus water eastward. It is a fine thing that there are men willing to undertake such tasks. They not only solve problems (and the Lorian swamp problem would not have been "set" had it not been worth the solving), they find their reward in the journeying as well as in the arrival at the goal. In Mr. Dracopoli's case the reader of his book will be grateful that he undertook the journey. Simply written, with a certain youthful and not unpleasing assurance, it has the valuable quality of atmo-

sphere; we feel with the author that we are in a dry and thirsty land; we, like him, are haunted by elephants we never see, we are equally wary of the hidden foe, we feel an equal distaste (for a day or two) for civilization on emerging from the wilds.

The principal results of Mr. Dracopoli's expedition have already been published in the *Journal*, and there is no need to recapitulate them. Two aspects of the book must, however, be noted, namely, the valuable information concerning the Somali tribes encountered, and the description of the fauna, notably of the Arrola (Hunter's hartebeeste). The author also deserves commendation for his explanation of the meanings of Somali place-names, and for the excellence of his photographs.

FRANK R. CANA.

'The Barbary Coast,' By Albert Edwards. (New York: Macmillan. Pp. 312. *Illustrations*. 8s. 6d. net. 1913.) Mr. Edwards's narrative of travel on the North African littoral shows much observation and insight into the oriental character. Knowing the language and evidently possessed of a sympathetic temperament, he was able to see something of the inner life of the Moor, and consequently we have descriptions of native life which we look for in vain from the fugitive *impressions de voyage* of the ordinary tourist. Mr. Edwards seems to have thoroughly assimilated the oriental atmosphere of Morocco and Algeria, and if the personal note seems unduly obtruded, we can forgive that for the truth and sincerity of his impressions. He understands thoroughly the point of view of the Moor and Arab—their ingrained conservatism, and their deep-rooted contempt for Christians.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

'The Ways of the South Sea Savage.' A Record of Travel and Observation amongst the Savages of the Solomon Islands and Primitive Coast and Mountain Peoples of New Guinea. By Robert W. Williamson. *With 43 Illustrations and a Map*. London: Seeley, Service & Co., Ltd. 1914. *Price 16s. net*.

Mr. Williamson, treasurer of the Royal Anthropological Institute, has followed up his account of his adventurous journey and really meritorious study of the Mafulu people of New Guinea* with a second book, into which he has gathered, in more popular form, further notes as to the Mafulus, and as to the experiences which befell him in the British Solomon islands and on the coast land of New Guinea, when on his way to the land where he made his study. There is not much new geographical information in the book under review; there are a great many quite interesting anthropological scraps, and many passages giving the author's personal estimate of the experiences, certainly not unexciting, through which he passed. Despite the fact that Mr. Williamson has, perhaps unavoidably, been a little too ready to take on trust much that he heard from the various white men with whom he came in brief contact, he has produced a distinctly interesting, and on the whole fairly trustworthy, story of travel.

* Reviewed in the *Journal* for January, 1913, p. 60.