Review: Persian Travels

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'Recollections of an Old Mountaineer.' By W. Larden. (London: Arnold. 1910. Pp. xv., 320. *Illustrations*. 14s.) To justify and make attractive a volume of simple accounts of mountaineering holidays on well-known ground requires a certain individuality of style. This author possesses that qualification, and his book is pleasant to read, deeply appreciative of the natural beauties of Switzerland, and instructive in mountain lore, whether on snow or rock, in winter or summer.

'A Vagabond in the Caucasus.' By Stephen Graham. (London: Lane. 1911. Pp. vii., 311. *Illustrations*. 12s. 6d.) Not only the Caucasus, but Moscow and other parts of Russia find a place here. It is a book to dip into, taking an incident or sketch here and there; reading consecutively its chapters may leave a somewhat disjointed impression, and one may confess to scanty interest in the personal details. There is an appendix giving some little information for intending tourists.

'In the Rhône Country.' By Rose G. Kingsley. (London: Allen. 1910. Pp. x., 307. *Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) This volume is well worth turning over for the sake of a very beautiful series of photographs. The text by itself would hardly justify the existence of the book. Private letters are a dangerous foundation on which to build a book; they must be beyond the ordinary as regards matter if they are to excuse even occasional grammatical lapses and the purely personal impressions which are so apt to leave the casual reader unmoved.

ASIA.

PERSIAN TRAVELS.

'Wanderungen in Persien.' Erlebtes und Erschautes von Hugo Grothe.
Berlin: Allgem. Verein für Deutsche Literatur. 1910. 6m.

An unpretending descriptive record of travel in Western Persia. Dr. Grothe started from Baghdad eastward across the frontier and the Pusht-i-Kuh to Kerman-shah. After excursions to view the ruined sculptures of Tag-i-Bostan and the inscriptions of Bissutun, he proceeded to Hamadan, the "City of Gardens," and from thence to Tehran, the capital, where he had an audience of the Shah and paid a visit to a sitting of the Mejliss. The most important chapter treats of the general subject of Russian and British policy in Persia, in which full credit is given to the beneficial results of our telegraph lines and consular officials, our missions, hospitals and schools. There is, however, little that is new or striking in the author's comments and observations, though his personal adventures are now and then interesting. There is a fairly good collection of photographic illustrations.

PTOLEMY'S GEOGRAPHY OF EASTERN ASIA.

Asiatic Society Monographs, No. 1. 'Researches in Ptolemy's Geography of Eastern-Asia (Further India and Indo-Malayan Archipelago).' By Colonel G. E. Gerini, M.R.A.S. Published in conjunction with the R.G.S. London: 1909.

The nucleus of this monograph is an article published in 1897 in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, which has grown in the interval from 26 pages to close upon 1000, and embodies the work and devotion and thought of a lifetime. In fact, if the monograph had no other value, its value would be great as a model of constant and energetic pursuit of a purpose under difficulties and of vigilant and ingenious collection and appraising of odd scraps of evidence. This evidence is given in some 700 pages of the book, and will be almost appalling to the ordinary reader in the variety and unfamiliarity of the authorities placed under

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