Review

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The Sudan in Evolution.— **Percy F. Martin.** Foreword by **Sir R. Wingate.** Pp. xxxvi. and 559. *Map.* London: Constable. 1921. 42s. *net.*

This account of the Sudan in Evolution, that is the story of the moral and material progress of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan since its re-conquest in 1896-98, is the result of many years of conscientious study supplemented by investigation on the spot. It is a convenient and desirable record of a very remarkable achievement. Mr. Martin is fully alive to the importance of geographical factors and sets them out with sufficient clearness. His account of the people is also adequate for his purpose. The scope of the book is wide; it includes all the departments of administration; trade, commerce, and communications; agriculture, irrigation, and forestry; travel and sport, archaeology and missionary efforts. In all that concerns administrative and economic questions the information given is full and trustworthy.

Having dealt with the country as a whole, Mr. Martin gives a description of each province separately. Here we note two or three inaccuracies, while the book is not always up to date. For example, Major C. H. Stigand and Major R. F. White were killed by Aliab Dinkas in December 1919, and while engaged on a punitive expedition. A good deal of information about conditions in Mongalla province became shortly afterwards available, but all we are told by Mr. Martin is that Major Stigand "was recently killed in battle." The disappearance of Sennar province is perhaps too recent an event to have been here chronicled. It happened last year, when, to place the Gezira irrigation works under undivided control, Sennar town and the adjacent district were added to the Blue Nile province, and the rest of Sennar province was renamed Fung province. That the new Darfur-Wadai frontier is not indicated is little matter for wonder, yet it was known months before this book was published. But we fail to understand why Mr. Martin writes "Borgu or Wadai" as alternative names for the same country, or his statement that "fortunately the rumour" that the French had occupied Abeshr in 1899 "proved to be false." The Anglo-French Declaration of 21 March 1899 had placed Wadai in the French sphere, though it was not till 1909 that Abeshr was occupied.

Sir Reginald Wingate, for seventeen years Governor-General of the Sudan, contributes an appreciative foreword. A copy of the War Office map (1914) of the country on the scale of 1/3 M is in the pocket of the cover. F. R. C.

In the Heart of Bantuland.— **Dugald Campbell, F.R.A.I.** London: Seeley, Service & Co. 1922. 21s. *net.*

This is a very interesting book, a record of personal experience during twenty-nine years in South Central Africa, between Angola on the west and Nyasaland on the east, and chiefly in the "Bemba" country in South Congo-land and the adjoining parts of what used to be called British Central Africa. Yet, although in the main it is a truthful description, it is full of small inaccuracies, partly (I should think) due to printers' errors, uncorrected by author or publisher; and without such checks we know what printers can be, making Livingstone still an active African traveller in 1886! The author, however, seems a little careless about African history. He ascribes—seemingly—the discovery and exploration of Lake Bangweulu to a supposititious French explorer, "Gérard" (instead of Victor Giraud) in a period preceding Livingstone (instead of in 1883). He seems very uncertain about my own movements and position during my seven years' connection with "British Central Africa," though he was actually resident at one of the Nyasaland mission stations when I was administering that Protectorate. As regards his knowledge of the Bantu languages he appears to have gone a long way towards mastering

Bemba (though not so far as the members of the London Missionary Society); but in treating—very ably—of the noxious secret society of “Butwa” in Lubaland, he is quite at a loss as to the origin and meaning of the name. In this case *Bu-* is only the fourteenth prefix of the Bantu languages, and the root of the word is *-twa*, the same as in *Ba-twa*, the name of a tribe in the marsh recesses of Bangweulu. This *-twa* root among the Bantu meant originally “dwarfishness,” “Pygmy”; and though the low stature may have disappeared the name applying the designation has remained. His etymology of “Bena”—a tribal prefix—as arising from the semitic *Beni* is unwarranted. It has nothing whatever to do with Palestine or “Scripture,” but is a softening of Ba-ina, the Bantu plural of Ina, “mother.”

The etymologies and translations of tribal names are often without any foundation. Thus *-luba*, of the Ba-luba does *not* mean “the lost tribe,” nor has the Luba language any affinities whatever with Hebrew.

With all these defects—some of them due to carelessness in printing and proof correction—the book, as I commenced by saying, is very interesting, and most of the illustrations are of value.

H. H. JOHNSTON.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

Last Days in New Guinea: being Further Experiences of a New Guinea Resident Magistrate. Captain C. A. W. Monckton. London: John Lane. 1922. 18s. net.

This volume is a sequel to ‘Some Experiences of a New Guinea Magistrate’ published last year and noticed in this *Journal*, vol. 58, p. 66. As Mr. Monckton’s narrative dates back to some nineteen years ago, the *dramatis personæ* and the administrative conditions of the Possession have probably considerably altered in the interval. In the main the book would seem to be a digest of the official reports of the author’s journeys in the conjoint divisions over which he was appointed Resident Magistrate in 1903. Mr. Monckton is an excellent raconteur, and his story of serious work is enlivened by many humorous episodes. The chief interest of the narrative to the geographer centres in two difficult and dangerous expeditions—one to the summit of Mount Albert Edward, and the other along the Anglo-German boundary, thence across the Possession to the west coast. The starting-point of the expedition to Mount Albert Edward was (as of the latter journey also) the Government station at Ioma—from which the mountain is visible in a south-westerly direction. After very strenuous climbing and many rough experiences, the highest point was attained in thirty-three days. “The whole of the summit appears to be a native hunting-ground,” where were “two deep blue and beautiful lakes, but of no great extent.” “The height was found to be by boiling-point—six carefully tested tubes being used—equal to 13,230 feet above sea-level,” being “30 feet higher than the height assigned by Sir W. MacGregor to Mount Victoria,” and therefore “the highest mountain in New Guinea.” Altitudes, however, obtained solely by the boiling-point of water are hardly to be trusted to this degree of accuracy. Very considerable discrepancy exists in the published altitudes assigned to these mountains in the various maps. The height of Mount Albert Edward in MacGregor’s map is 12,500 feet; on the author’s map Mount Victoria is stated to be 13,150, and on MacGregor’s own map 13,120, which Mr. Monckton obviously considers to be 13,200 feet. Why, however, dispute over 30 feet between these two summits when the “highest range of mountains in the world” rises at the head of the Fly River? The altitude of these “snowy mountains”—rivalling those brought to the light