MATÉRIAUX POUR UN CORPUS INSCRIPTIONUM ARABICARUM,
 première partie Égypte: par MAX VAN BERCHEM.
 Mémoires de la Mission Archéologique Française au
 Caire, tome xix, fascicule iv. (Paris: E. Leroux, 1903.)

With this fasciculus M. van Berchem brings the first part of his great work on Arabic inscriptions to a close. This volume (of 900 and odd pages 4to) treats of the epigraphy of Cairo, and the latter portion of the fasciculus is devoted to an *Index Général*, which makes all the treasures of this laborious work easily and quickly available to the historical student. To the French Government, indeed, is due no stinted thanks for bearing the expense entailed by this publication, with its numerous photographic plates in facsimile of the inscriptions; but M. van Berchem, on the other hand, has worked hard to justify the patronage given to his book by the Ministre de l'Instruction Publique—545 inscriptions, in the present volume, having been copied, translated, and annotated, with full reference to the chronicles or other printed sources. These inscriptions, engraved on stone or the like, come from mosques, tombs, private houses, and other edifices; engraved on wood or metal they are found on divers articles of furniture, domestic or from the mosques; they deal with every conceivable subject known in Islam, and refer to all sorts and conditions of men. Further, being as a rule contemporary with the persons and events alluded to, the names are not liable to the clerical errors which abound in manuscripts.

To summarise the contents of the present great quarto is impossible in the space at command. But to deal with one point only, M. van Berchem tells us that he has spent a couple of years making his index. We can easily believe it. It is also almost an encyclopædic dictionary. Besides registering every proper name, surname, and title of office occurring in the inscriptions, all the laudatory and maledictory formulæ are given in order, and every Arabic word of historical or archæological importance is cited with full references. The system adopted in the index is lucidly

explained by M. van Berchem in his prefatory remarks, and the student will do well to glance through pages 777 to 785, which deal with this matter. In conclusion, it is sincerely to be hoped that M. van Berchem may continue his labours in a field in which he has no rivals; further, that the beneficent patronage of the French Government in the matter of printing this great work may in no wise be checked; though we in England must continue to deplore the almost complete indifference which our Government invariably shows in the works of English Oriental scholars.

G. LE STRANGE.

INDIA. By Colonel Sir THOMAS HUNGERFORD HOLDICH, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., R.E. (London, no date.)

The editor of this series, "The Regions of the World," is to be congratulated on having secured for the volume on India a writer who has spent the best part of a lifetime in the study of Indian geography.

The work is divided into twelve chapters. The first six deal with (1) Early India, (2) the geography of Balūchistān, (3) of Afghānistān, (4) of Kashmīr and the Himālayas, (5) of Peninsular India, (6) of Assam, Burma, and Ceylon. We then come to (7) the People of India, (8) Political Geography, (9) Agriculture and Revenue, (10) Railways, (11) Minerals, (12) Climate. We are given eight coloured maps and 106 other maps and diagrams.

Fortunately, thirty years of official reporting and letter-writing have not quenched Colonel Holdich's natural gift of an easy and flowing style; while his descriptive passages, for instance that on pp. 82, 83, demonstrate that he possesses the keen eye of the artist. He is at his best, I think, in the more purely geographical chapters, above all in those on Balūchistān and Afghānistān, where his personal knowledge places him beyond the reach of any rival. The strongest point in the book is, perhaps, the large number of admirable maps and diagrams, a series far in advance of anything hitherto provided in works on India. The only criticism I can make is that in some cases the scale is so