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Review: Formosa

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island. He has had the help of Mr. Silva White in the chapter on climate, of Dr. I. Cerio in that on geology, and of Mrs. Longworth Knocker in that on flowers. Other contributions also are acknowledged in the concluding chapters, which are in the nature of appendices relating romantic incidents connected with the place. The author gives a bibliography, and has evidently taken great pains to include both in that and in his text all kinds of recent information and research. The book will add greatly to the interest and pleasure of any one visiting Capri, and especially of any one who makes a protracted stay; and it is not the less suited to its purpose for being written in a popular style, and including a good deal of matter not to be expected in an ordinary guide-book.

ASIA.

FORMOSA.

'Japanese Rule in Formosa.' By Yosaburo Takekoshi; with Preface by Baron Shimpei Goto, Chief of the Civil Administration. Translated by George Braithwaite. 8vo. With 38 *Illustrations and a Map*. Pp. 342. London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 1907. Price 10s. 6d. net.

Baron Goto, in introducing the author of this volume to his readers, complains that, while the Japanese administration of Formosa has been severely criticized, the majority of the critics have never visited the island, and are singularly ignorant of the conditions now obtaining. And if this be true of his fellow-countrymen, it must be admitted that we in England have, if anything, still less knowledge of the island than they, for previous to the Japanese occupation few persons besides naval officers and wandering naturalists had set foot upon its shores. The present volume may therefore be said to be especially useful, for even now books treating of Formosa are exceedingly limited in number, and not many of their authors have had such opportunities as Mr. Takekoshi, who, in addition to making extensive journeys about the country, has had access to most sources of official information in his capacity of member of the Japanese Diet.

The book bears evidence of being rather hastily put together, and contains some rather bizarre English, but it is not lacking in information. Mr. Takekoshi is evidently chiefly interested in administration and politics, and hence we have special chapters on finance and economics, the relation of landlord and tenant, police administration, education, the courts of justice, and the question of the three monopolies—salt, opium, and camphor—as well as some sixty pages on the past history of the island, but matters geographical are by no means unrepresented. It is true that, when speaking of the fauna and flora and geographical distribution, the author is far from being at home, and seems to be ignorant of the work of Swinhoe, Adams, and other naturalists—or perhaps we ought to say to know them only by repute, for they are mentioned in the bibliography; but his chapters on the development of the island's resources, on the Formosan savages, on tea and other leading products, and on communications, trade, and harbours, are nevertheless full of information. Mr. Takekoshi has a strong admiration for the British and their methods of rule, and he would like to see the less-known parts of the island put in the hands of one or more chartered companies for some twenty years or so.

It cannot be laid to the charge of the Japanese that they have not troubled to make themselves acquainted with the land and the people that have come into their possession. The whole area of Formosa has now been accurately surveyed and its productive capacity ascertained, and there is no field or plantation, however small, which will not be found upon the map. Eight hundred officials, conducting inquiries into customs, ownership, etc., worked side by side with many corps of engineers

until the survey was completed. The number of savages—who, it may be mentioned, occupy nearly half the island, and that, it is believed, much the richest in timber, gold, iron, and oil—is placed at 104,000. The two specialists, Messrs. Ino and Kurino, who were detailed by Government to report on these people, divide them into eight groups, each having its own peculiar language and customs. These are the Atayal, Vonum, Tsou, Tsalisen, Paiwan, Puyuma, Ami, and Pepohoan. Of these, in addition to various details of their distinguishing characteristics, etc., Mr. Takekoshi gives type photographs, but they cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory, for two of them—the Atayal man and the Paiwan woman—have certainly a very large admixture of Chinese blood. Some interesting statistics are given of the climate, rainfall, etc., and also of the camphor industry. There is, unfortunately, no index, but the omission is partly atoned for by a tolerably full and careful bibliography, albeit somewhat unnecessarily full of misprints and errors. That the author has not himself consulted all the works mentioned is probable. One of them is given as “‘Formosa’ by the author of ‘Anonyma.’” We are unacquainted with the book in question, but without undue rashness we may hazard the surmise that it deals with another world than that of which Mr. Takekoshi writes.

F. H. H. G.

AFRICA.

THE EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

‘The Egyptian Sudan: its History and Monuments.’ By E. A. Wallis Budge. 2 vols. *Illustrated*. Pp. xxviii., 652; x., 618. London: Kegan Paul & Co. 1907.

We do not pretend adequately to review this large and important work here. As its sub-title implies, the staple of its matter and the ground of its merit lie outside the field of geography. What comes within the purview of this *Journal* is of less importance than the rest, and not so largely based on first-hand observation and research. We find a useful chapter of travel-bibliography at the outset, the result of considerable labour, and in the long catalogue note but one slip. “The eminent traveller Niebuhr (born March 17, 1733, died 1763) who visited Egypt in 1761” is Carsten of that ilk; but he lived to be about fourscore years of age. The date 1763 is that of his return to his native land from Yemen, not the date of his death. Further, there is a summary survey of all the Sudanese provinces and their inhabitants, with certain remarks on racial types and social customs. In the northern riverain Sudan this is enriched by the author’s own observation. The rest is taken in the main from recent official works, such as Count Gleichen’s ‘Handbook’ and Sir W. Garstin’s Nile Bluebook, and is not intended for geographers, but for those to whom the original sources are inaccessible or distasteful. Lastly, there are scattered up and down the two volumes many notes and impressions of the aspect of the northern Sudan just after the close of the Mahdist period. These have a historical value which is enhanced by the privileged position and undoubted competence of the observer. Dr. Budge’s knowledge of Arabic and long familiarity with Nilotic scenes and peoples gave him a great advantage over the special correspondents and the like who have hitherto been our chief authorities for the appearance of the Sudan during and immediately after Kitchener’s advance. It should be added that pretty nearly all that is known concerning the ancient geography and topography of the Nilotic Sudan is to be found somewhere or other in the book; but so far as we have been able to discover, no new local identification is adduced, and Dr. Budge confines himself in this connection to the river valley. The great body of the book is outside our scope. It deals very fully with the ancient history of the Sudan, and more summarily with the modern.