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Review: The Eastern Congo Basin

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 6 (Dec., 1910), pp. 724-725

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1776861>

Accessed: 10-05-2016 00:48 UTC

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on p. 71, is not a true facsimile, though the draughtsman has succeeded in giving an excellent idea of the style of the original. A. H. KEANE.

THE EASTERN CONGO BASIN.

'Nel Paese dei Bango.' By Maurizio Piscicelli. Naples. [N.d.] 12 lire.

This is not a book of travel in the ordinary sense, or of exploration in any sense, but merely the reproduction of a diary kept by the author during his residence of three years (1903-5) in the Congo Free State. Being written before the cession of Congoland to Belgium, it can now claim little more than an historic interest. But that interest is in some respects very considerable, and out of all proportion with the small area covered. This area is mainly confined to the Ingiri district south-west of Lake Tanganyika, where Sig. Piscicelli spent most of his time as a Congo official amongst the dominant BANGO-BANGO people.

As in most diaries, much repetition is involved, and this makes some parts rather tedious reading. But these need not detain the reader, and in any case are amply compensated by some really attractive descriptive matter. At the very opening the author plunges *in medias res*, and we are soon entangled in a scathing exposure of the strange vagaries of priests and nuns in the Tanganyika region.

Reference is made to a curious factor in the social relations of the natives with their European masters. This is the so-called *baruwa*, or "letter," which is really a kind of passport given for his protection to any member of a tribe wishing to go on his travels, and of which very extensive use is made. It consists of a sheet of notepaper or any scrap of paper at hand, on which is written any nonsense under the name of the bearer, which is the essential point. A specimen is given which ran thus: "The here-named Ndeke is worrying me for the last hour for a baruwa. I don't know him, but I herewith certify that if he is no exception to his fellows he drinks hard." Then follows an illegible signature, date March 7, 1896, and the said Ndeke found this an all-sufficient pass to travel in safety for seven years. On the general question of the treatment of the natives by the white men there are some instructive remarks, but it would be out of place to discuss them here.

It appears that the *muafi* ordeal, so widespread throughout Negroland, prevailed also till recently in the Ingiri district, where it was regarded as efficacious, especially against the sinister glance of the evil eye. The process is summary, as thus: Two women, sisters of a certain chief, are accused of possessing the evil eye, the charge being made in consequence of the death of many little children in the chief's village, and are condemned to the judgment of the *muafi*, a bitter extract from certain poisonous herbs. The verdict is that one dies and is therefore guilty, while the other recovers and is innocent. Another case: A healthy young woman, strong and desirable, has many wooers, but is eventually married to the chief of a certain village. But the day she enters it two children die, so she must be possessed, and has to submit to the ordeal. Thereupon she sickens, but does not die, so is declared to be not quite innocent, and while the suitors are clamouring for the return of their offerings, the husband obtains her freedom by the payment of ten fowls. With him she lives several years and has four children, but, strange to say, all die. Thus fresh complications arise, and the people are perhaps not sorry that the *muafi* ordeal was abolished as a court of justice in 1904, and all cases under its jurisdiction referred to the tribunal at Stanleyville.

Besides numerous photographic reproductions, some showing the effects of trypanosomiasis (the sleeping sickness), there is one large map of the region

between the Lualaba and Lake Tanganyika, together with several small sketch-maps, which, though drawn approximately to scale, show no latitudes or longitudes.

A. H. KEANE.

'Hunting Trips in Northern Rhodesia.' By D. D. Lyell. (London: Cox. 1910. Pp. xii., 118. *Illustrations*. 21s.) There is a good deal to be learnt from these pages as to the conditions of travel in remoter parts of Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and Portuguese East Africa, and it would appear to be a necessary adjunct to a library of travel and sport, for it contains valuable notes as to the voyager's requirements and necessary arrangements, together with tables of approximate expenses and a vocabulary of local native dialects, both for the names of animals and for generally useful words. The style of the narrative is of the simplest order.

'Aux Ruines des Grandes Cités Soudanaises.' By L. Peyrissac. (Paris: Challamel. 1910. Pp. xiv., 245. *Maps and Illustrations*. 7 fr.) This title is misleading. The study of the great centres of population in French West Africa occupies an unimportant proportion of the book, which has a much wider scope. Social and (more particularly) economic conditions come within the author's view, and he has the advantage of being able to reproduce a communication from the Governor-General on the general situation in this part of the French dominions. Several maps are provided; they are rough, but useful, as they show, for example, the distribution of economic products in the regions bordering the Niger, routes of travellers and recent French missions in the Sahara, etc.

AMERICA.

TWO BOOKS ON LABRADOR.

'Labrador.' By Wilfred T. Grenfell and others. Pp. 497. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1909. 10s. *net*.

'Labrador: its Discovery, Exploration, and Development.' By W. G. Gosling. Pp. 575. Toronto: The Musson Book Co. 1909. London: Alston Rivers. 1910. 21s. *net*.

The first of these two books, in great part written by one who has devoted a life of almost demonic energy to the service of the people of Labrador, and well edited by Dr. R. A. Daly, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sums up all that is known of the inhabitants, the resources, and the natural phenomena of an imperfectly explored peninsula. Of its sixteen chapters, ten are by Dr. Grenfell, upon the people, the animals, and the fisheries; the others are a lucid historical introduction by Mr. W. S. Wallace, of MacAlaster University, Toronto, and chapters on the geology and scenery of the north-east coast, the Hamilton river and the Grand falls, the Indians, the birds, and the flora, by Dr. R. A. Daly, Dr. A. P. Low, of the Canadian Geological Survey, Mr. W. B. Cabot, of Boston, Dr. C. W. Townsend, of Boston, and Dr. E. B. Delabarre, of Brown University. Special praise must be given to those of Dr. Grenfell on the missions, and of Dr. Daly. The latter describes the geology and scenery of the coast with scientific accuracy, yet in language which the layman can understand, and is admissible from every point of view. Of his own work Dr. Grenfell speaks with frankness and modesty, and gives generous praise to his co-workers, especially to the Moravians, who have found in the hard conditions of the Labrador a spur to heroism. "To no other people on earth does the lonely Labrador owe one-half the debt it does to these devoted servants of the Moravian Mission" (p. 236).

In spite of the work of Dr. A. P. Low, Mr. Dillon Wallace, and others, the