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The Regions of the Okovango

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scale map in fifteen sheets. The most important rectification introduced was that of the course of the Anapu, the principal stream of the region south of Marajo island, till then practically a *terra incognita*. Of M. Coudreau's last disastrous journey little is yet known.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Regions of the Okovango.

THE headwaters of the Okovango and Kwando or Chobé rivers drain a country of sand-hills. These sand-hills rest on an extensive bed of clay; the river-channels have cut through this clay bed long ago, so that the outcrop of clay is on the hill-side and often above the path. Towards the end of the rainy season the water trickles out all along these clay-seams and runs down to the rivers; and as the dry season advances this trickle increases to quite a flow in some places. As an ordinary untrained observer, the theory has suggested itself to me that the weight of the heaped-up sand has caused depressions in the clay bed, corresponding in a rough way to the height of the heap of sand drifted by the wind on top (for the sand-hills run roughly north and south, and their gradual slopes all face to the east, which is the direction of the prevailing winds in that part of Africa), thus:

If this be so, then it is easy to see how, when the depressions in the clay fill up, the water will overflow, and finally be drained off by innumerable syphons into the river-beds. The smaller rivers and streams all flow rapid and clear as crystal.

FRED. S. ARNOT.

53, Belmont Drive, Liverpool, February 1, 1900.

Lake Rukwa.

That Lieut. Glanning (*Geographical Journal*, vol. xv. p. 179) should make the length of the open water of Lake Rukwa to be over 50 miles—more than double what I found it—is interesting, because he was there in June, two months earlier in the year than I was, and the length of 50 miles is just midway between the limits I assigned to the lake in the wet and dry seasons—80 miles at the end of the wet season, say, in March, and 25 miles in the month of August, when I was there—and is, therefore, in substantial agreement with my observations. That he should have thought, however, that the lake does not considerably increase its dimensions in the rainy season, is probably due to the fact that the water was high when he was there, and that his expedition passed from Muambunyu's (Mwini Wungu's) round the east and south of the lake, where it alters least to Kasonso's on the Saisi. On the portion between Chiubi and Chipindi on this route, it can hardly alter at all unless the water falls very low, for the sides are here often precipitous. On the south, where he supposes the lake to have retreated a mile within the last ten years, is the plain which I considered to be covered with water in the rainy season. It is more than probable that this plain is not covered every rainy season, and that the full length of 80 miles is not all open water every year, but that the lake considerably alters its dimensions is evident from the fact that it was