Review

Author(s): M. I. N.

Review by: M. I. N.

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interest to note that the German writer, Dr. Meyer ('Das deutsche Kolonialreich') remarks that this great system of lake railways will undoubtedly constitute the nearest feelers towards the sea of the great Trans-African Overland Route; and that these railways, connecting up from the east and from the west, will all trend towards the coming great north and south route, made up of waterways and railroads, the Cape to Cairo Line.

C. P. MACCARTHY.

REVIEWS

EUROPE

Roumania Yesterday and To-day.— Mrs. Will Gordon. London: John Lane. 1918. Pp. xxxii. and 270. *Illustrations.* 10s. 6d. net.

THE tragic fate which has befallen Rumania, chiefly, it would seem, on account of events in Russia, both before and after the Revolution, is perhaps not so fully known in this country as it should be, and it is certain that before the war relatively little was known of the country by the majority here. Mrs. Gordon divides her book into two parts, of which the first gives a general sketch of Rumania as it appeared before the war, while the second is devoted to a description of the course of events after her entry into the war in August 1916. The Queen of Rumania contributes an introduction and two chapters, and the profits are to be devoted to Rumanian relief funds. The author states that her purpose is to arouse sympathetic interest in the country, and to bring about a closer understanding of its difficulties and sufferings. The book, with its fine photographs and its frontispiece—a reproduction of Raemakers' cartoon—is well fitted to carry out its purpose, but does not contain very much that will be new to those who have studied the subject and have followed recent events. There are, however, some interesting notes on the customs and folk-lore of the people. The part played by rain and water charms in peasant life is emphasized, and is related to the drought of summer. Thus it is noted that a newly wedded wife throws a coin into the well to propitiate the indwelling spirit, while when a pitcher is filled it is customary to sprinkle a few drops on the ground as an offering to the water spirit. So also a widow, who must visit the grave of her husband daily for forty days, leaves water beside it in case the spirit of the dead should suffer from thirst. Again, to sprinkle water before the feet of any one is to do him great honour. Rain-making ceremonies are also said to be performed, but no details are given.

Brief sketches of the Rumanian Vlachs, gipsies, and Jews are given in another chapter, and there is a short summary of Rumanian history.

M. I. N.

Montenegro in History, Politics, and War.—Alex. Devine. London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1918. Pp. xi. and 140. *Sketch-map.* Price 3s. 6d. net.

Like the volume on Rumania reviewed above, the present one has a double purpose in view—to arouse sympathy for a vanquished ally, and to help to raise money for Relief Funds. Mr. Devine's book is however on a smaller scale, and is largely historical and political, the description of present-day conditions being limited to a few pages at the beginning of the first chapter. These give an interesting sketch of the country and its people, bringing out clearly the essentially "primitive" nature of social life within it. Despite the

geographical position of the country, indeed, the mode of life seems to approximate to that which exists among simple peoples in Africa and elsewhere, for the woman is carrier and agriculturist, while the man is fundamentally a warrior and a warrior only. The most fervent of the wishes expressed for a boy at baptism is said to be, "God save him from dying in his bed"! Men physically incapable of soldiering are said to adopt the profession of minstrel, thus taking a vicarious part in the deeds of the warriors.

The account of the Montenegrin campaigns during the present war, however, shows how poor a chance courage of the heroic type, even when supplemented by the advantages due to a country well fitted for defence and guerilla warfare, stands against a modern well-equipped army. Mr. Devine defends Montenegro and her king vigorously against the aspersions which have been cast against both, in connection with the surrender of Mount Lovchen and the last disaster, and much of his book is occupied with political matters which cannot be discussed here. It is furnished with a bibliography, but no index.

M. I. N.

AFRICA

General Smuts' Campaign in East Africa.— **Brigadier-General J. H. V.**

Crowe. Introduction by **General Smuts.** London: John Murray. Pp. xxiii. and 280. *Sketch-maps.* Price 10s. 6d. net.

Sketches of the East Africa Campaign.— **Captain R. V. Dolbey, R.A.M.C.** London: John Murray. 1918. Pp. xxiv. and 219. *Illustrations and Sketch-map.* Price 6s. net.

Brigadier-General Crowe was in command of the Royal Artillery in East Africa during the period of General Smuts' campaign there, and his narrative is almost entirely a record of military events. It may be regarded as a semi-official account, and while it is reticent with respect to certain events on which fuller information would be welcome, it makes some unexpected disclosures—for instance, as to the blockade-running by the Germans in 1915 and 1916. General Crowe brings out clearly the great physical obstacles to campaigning in East Africa, and the wonder grows that the South Africans, unaccustomed to bush fighting, accomplished so much in so short a time. For the protraction of the campaign should not blind us to the fact that, with the help of the Belgians and General Northey, the greater part of German East Africa was conquered in the seven months March–September 1916, and that the driving force in that period was mainly General Smuts and his South Africans—British and Boer. The introduction by General Smuts adds considerably to the value of the book; it is specially noteworthy for his powerful plea that the conquered country "may never be allowed to become a menace to the future peaceful development of the world," as General Smuts rightly holds that it would be were it returned to Germany. Moreover, it would be a great betrayal of the interests of the natives.

Captain Dolbey, a Canadian doctor, does not give us a formal narrative, but his sketches go a long way to help the reader to get the "feel" of East Africa—or rather of those parts of it in which the doctor worked while attached to the army of General Smuts. They are mainly letters written home, and they have the vivid touch which comes from first impressions—when one possesses, as does the author, insight and the gift of letters. Naturally there is a good deal about disease and sickness, of the patients and nurses in the hospitals; there are also arresting descriptions of the country, its inhabitants, its flora and fauna, and of the bestiality (it is the correct word) of the Germans. It is a book well worth reading by all who enjoy the study of nature, animate or