Review

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (Sep., 1910), pp. 350-351

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1777323>

Accessed: 23-05-2016 01:35 UTC

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the land ; representing also incidents of travel and numerous types of tribes, single and in groups, with their industrial and social pursuits, games, dances, and many other details. There are, further, many vocabularies and other specimens of over forty languages, some quite new, and the materials were thus supplied for the 467 illustrations with which the two volumes are enriched. To these and other particulars several references have already been made in the *Journal* for the years 1905-6.

Of the multitudinous details many are of quite exceptional interest. Thus we are told that several of the nominal "Christians" celebrate pagan rites, because they have many chapels, but not a single priest to conduct the service properly. Hence they keep the feasts with the strangest "religious ceremonies accompanied by copious draughts of rum."

The strange species of cannibalism referred to by Wallace on hearsay is here confirmed, and we read how fifteen years after burial the bones of the dead, all but the skull, are dug up and burnt in a great fire before the house. Then the carbonized remains are swept together, put into a pot, and set on the fire, which is kept up day and night for a whole month until the contents are reduced to ashes. These are put into a large kettle full of beer, and at the feast of the dead passed round to the invited guests after being poured through a fine sieve. The origin of this singular custom, which appears to be widespread, may be sought in the belief that the bones, which alone survive after the decay of the body, are the last abode of the soul.

In some districts the world-wide werewolf superstition assumes a somewhat peculiar form. When a wizard grows old and can no longer move about quickly, he becomes a jaguar ; that is to say, he goes from time to time into the woods, where he changes to a jaguar, when he kills and eats deer, aguti, and other animals as well as men. On his return from the forest he again becomes a man and hides his jaguar-skin in the rafters over his bed, and when he dies this skin is buried with him. His soul, however, does not pass into the next world, but prowls about for ever in the neighbouring woodlands as a "very wicked jaguar." Here we have the clue to the fact that in several of the local languages the same word means both jaguar and magician.

A. H. KEANE.

Note.—This review was written before the appearance of Dr. Hamilton Rice's article on the river Uaupes in the June issue of the *Journal*. This is a valuable paper as far as it goes, but Dr. Rice spent only nine months in the country, while Dr. Koch-Grünberg covered the same ground several times over.

'American Inland Waterways.' By Herbert Quick. (New York and London : Putnam's Sons. 1909. Pp. xx., 241. *Illustrations*. \$3.50.) This is a close study not only of American and Canadian waterways themselves, but also of their economic position. In spite of the vast volume of traffic on some canals in the states it would seem that in many cases their trade and utility are approaching the stifled condition of those in the United Kingdom, and for similar reasons. The questions raised are controversial, and the author holds strong opinions. His view of the advantages of Canadian waterways, existing and potential, over American, with especial reference to the grain transport trade, are of particular interest to us in this country. The illustrations are numerous and good, and largely of a technical character.

'The Picturesque St. Lawrence.' By Clifton Johnson. (New York : The Macmillan Co. 1910. Pp. xiii., 253. *Illustrations*. 5s.) The St. Lawrence

is surpassed in historical and general interest by few rivers in the old world and by none in the new. It is principally to the historical interest that the author gives attention. The volumes of this "Picturesque River" series, in fact, are in character not unlike those of the English "Highways and Byways" series, while there is also enough travelling information to make them helpful as well as interesting to tourists. There are some good photographs, but the St. Lawrence is really too big for the camera.

'Ponce de Leon: The Rise of the Argentine Republic.' By An Estanciero. (London: Lawrie. 1910. Pp. x., 435.) A publisher's note states that this book was originally published in 1878, has been long out of print, but "has been recognized as the best and most accurate description yet written of the British invasion, and the rise of the Argentine Republic." It is further unusual as being cast in fiction-form, being full of conversation and nowhere written in the impersonal manner of history. The result is an exceedingly vivid story, with enough historical fact interwoven to make the whole much more instructive than the best type of historical novel. One result, of course, is a certain artificiality, but that is a trifling flaw.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND.

'Murihuku.' By Robert McNab. Wellington: Whitcombe & Tombs. 1909. Pp. xv., 499. *Charts and Illustrations.*

In any future work on New Zealand where an historical conspectus of the South island is called for, there will be no excuse for passing lightly over the earliest period, for Mr. McNab would seem to have made researches in this subject so thorough that they are done once for all. Though he deals suitably with Tasman's discovery and the visits of Cook and Vancouver, these parts of the story are less fully treated, as being accessible elsewhere, than the part which Mr. McNab has made his own—namely, the work of the sealers and other adventurers from the earliest years of the nineteenth century. His researches have led him far afield. Australian newspapers of the period, newspapers and log books preserved in libraries in the eastern ports of the United States, whence so many vessels visited the South Seas at the period under notice, and documents and books in our own Record Office and the British Museum, were not the only sources laid under contribution. The author deals fully with the little-known voyage of Malaspina in 1793, and that of Bellingshausen in 1820, so far as they were concerned with his area, which, it may be added, includes the Macquarie and other antipodean island-groups. Much of the detail of the early adventurers' work is trivial in as far as that work left little impression on the future colony; its justification is its extraordinary interest and its typification of the Australasian outlook and atmosphere of the time. Page after page, often reproduced verbatim from contemporary journals and written reports, reads like the best type of boys' story-book; we hear of battles with storms and hostile natives, of sealing parties left on desert islands and never brought off by their vessels, of ships which sailed to unknown disaster, of wrecks discovered but never recognized. The author himself gives the palm of his research to the discovery of the log of an officer who served on three vessels, including the *Endeavour*, the wreck in Dusky sound about which so much romance has been woven.

Such is the story; as history there is little fault to find with the work. It is less the writer's fault than that of his material that the narrative seems occasionally dislocated and a little difficult to follow. A few of the actors on the stage (*e.g.*