up with an attack of African fever. I regret that Mr. Reynolds, the third in our party, is still in Africa. The untiring energy and loyalty of both these officers it is a pleasure to recall, and I need hardly say that from first to last it was these qualities in my comrades which made work a pleasure, and rendered even formal orders a thing, I think, wholly unknown between us.

Before the reading of the paper, the Chairman, Sir George Taubman Goldie (Vice-President), said: As you know, it is our custom here that, when a paper is going to be read to the meeting, your President, or, failing him, a Vice-President, should make some prefatory remarks, introducing to the meeting the traveller who is to read the paper. In the present instance this procedure seems to me rather superfluous, because I feel sure that Captain Lugard is far better known to most of you than his introducer; but as I must not depart from our established practice, I will draw your attention to one point, which might perhaps otherwise be overlooked. I believe that to many people in this country the name of Lugard in connection with Africa summons up only an idea of Uganda, and that is very natural, inasmuch as the creation of that new province was so largely due to his energy, his courage, and his skill; but all of you who have followed the course of African events during the last ten years are aware that Captain Lugard's experiences in the Dark Continent have by no means been confined to what is generally called East Africa. So long ago as 1885, during the Suakin campaign, he had executive charge of the transport arrangements, which must have brought him into close contact with the natives; later on, in 1888 and 1889, happening to be in Nyasaland, which at that time was threatened by the Arab slave-traders, he initiated, organized, and led important expeditions against them, but for which I doubt if there would have been left there any European settlements to develop as they have since done into what is now known, I cannot tell why, as British Central Africa. I mention these facts, not by way of commendation of Captain Lugard—for, as you know, good wine needs no bush—but because at the moment he is about to read to us a paper on a recent visit to the western quarter of the continent, and it is well to remember that the value of the impressions he has brought back must be immensely augmented by his capacity to compare them with corresponding impressions gained in many other parts of the continent, in South Africa and North Africa, as well as East Africa; in fact, I cannot doubt that it is Captain Lugard's wide experience in Africa, and his services to civilization all over the continent, that have been the cause of his being honoured by her Majesty with the mark of distinction which I saw announced in this morning's paper.

After the reading of the paper, the following discussion took place:—

The Chairman: Before we return thanks to Captain Lugard for his delightful paper, it is customary to invite any gentlemen present to enter into discussion upon it, and I should like to be allowed to call upon one gentleman present, M. Dhanis, who is well known in connection with the Congo basin, and practically restored order in the Free State, and gave it security. I am perfectly aware that the Congo and Niger are not the same places, as some French newspapers evidently believe; but you must remember that the physical conditions are very much the same everywhere in tropical Africa, and I have no doubt that Baron Dhanis can give us some valuable remarks.

Baron Dhanis: I thank you very much for the kind notice you take of me, but I beg you will excuse me making any remarks on the very remarkable paper I have just heard from Captain Lugard. We all in Belgium have followed the
work of Captain Lugard, and I am very happy to be present this evening to be able to applaud him also. I hope you will excuse my making any further remarks, as I am not accustomed to speak in English, and, besides, I am not at all prepared this evening.

Mr. Ravenstein said that they must all feel delighted to have Captain Lugard once more among them. The excellent work done by him in East Africa had at last been recognized by the public, and he felt sure they were pleased that he had been equally successful in the region of the Niger. That river had eluded the grasp of the geographer for centuries, and although the old maps showed unmistakable indication of a big delta at the bottom of the Gulf of Guinea, theoretical geographers had connected the Niger with a big lake, or even with the Congo. It was, in fact, only during the present year that the entire course of the river had been found.

Captain Lugard, by crossing the routes of former explorers, had done excellent service, and, by combining his work with that of his predecessors, we were now able to construct a fairly accurate map of the country. A German expedition, starting from the Togo country, had met with equal success, further north, in Gurma. This race between British, French, and German explorers, the distribution of flags, and the signing of treaties, might cause diplomatic difficulties, but they, as geographers, had every reason to rejoice. He hoped that Captain Lugard would still be afforded many opportunities of distinguished service as a geographical explorer, and of serving his country in the true interests of humanity.

Dr. Crosse: When I heard that I was to have the honour of being asked to speak to such a distinguished audience, I felt extremely nervous, and inclined to decline the honour. However, I feel I must not lose this opportunity of telling you what I can of the Niger territory. I went out when the charter was granted to the Company, and where, in 1886, there was suspicion of the European, there is now confidence; where intertribal warfare used to be the rule, it is the exception; where human sacrifices were so enormous in number that often, in my own small village, Asaba, 150 miles up the river, no less than 1000 to 1200 people were killed every year for sacrifices, to-day there is not one person killed. This is one result of the charter administered by the Royal Niger Company, as represented by our worthy chairman, Sir George Goldie.

The Chairman: I now rise to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Captain Lugard for his most delightful address. A letter was received to-day from Colonel Monteil, stating that, owing to the late debate in the French Chamber, he very much regretted he was unable to be present to hear Captain Lugard’s paper. I also have to tell you that two or three days ago a very remarkable confirmation arrived in England of the statement I heard Captain Lugard make as to his friendship with the King of Kiama. A few days ago a letter arrived from that king, marked very urgent, in which he informs the Niger Company that since Captain Lugard had left, the French had come upon him with force, and he hoped Captain Lugard would support him. I only mention that to show that Captain Lugard was justified in referring to the amiable manner in which the King of Kiama received him and parted from him. I have now only to ask you to join in a vote of thanks to Captain Lugard, which I know will be unanimous.

Captain Lugard thanked the meeting.

The Chairman: There are some very excellent maps of Captain Lugard’s in the next room, showing the routes he worked out during this journey. They came out within one per cent., although based on paces only—a remarkable result.
Note.—A few photographs of Borgu by Mr. Mottram, and of various parts of the Niger by Dr. Crosse—who for some nine years has been the senior medical officer in the Niger Company's service, and has shown a devotion to his work which is the theme of every one who has ever visited the Territories—were shown on the screen.

NOTES ON WESTERN MADAGASCAR AND THE ANTINOSI COUNTRY.*

By J. T. Last.

In this paper I wish to put on record some of the chief points of interest connected with my journeys and explorations along the west coast of Madagascar, and also some account of the south-central districts, inhabited by the Antinosi immigrants from the country near Fort Dauphin, on the south-east coast. The primary object of my expedition was to make collections of Lepidoptera, to which I added that of collecting other objects of natural history, and of obtaining general information about the country, people, and places as circumstances permitted.

Sometime previous to my visit to Madagascar I had been engaged in similar pursuits in East Africa. Leaving East Africa, I went by mail to Zanzibar, where I made a few collections in natural history, and also preparations for a lengthened stay in Madagascar.

On July 2, 1889, I embarked, with a party of six Zanzibar men, on board the French mail steamer Amazone. In three days we had reached the rocky mountain mass of Mayotte, one of the Comoro islands, and on the next day we dropped anchor at Nosi-bé. The island of Nosi-bé is situated off the north-west coast of Madagascar, a few miles from the mainland, in about long. 46° 15' E. and lat. 13° 20' S. It is some 15 miles long between north and south points, and about 10 miles in extreme width, and forms part of the eastern side of Pásindáva Bay. The extinct craters show the volcanic nature of the island. Of these there are several, some in perfect form, especially one a little to the north of the town of Hellville; the cup-like sides of this is covered with a thick forest, and there is a deep lake at the bottom. In the south part of the island rises the high mountain mass of Luku-bé. This is covered with a fine forest of magnificent trees, palms, bamboos, and other growths. The soil of the island is fairly good, and sugar-cane has been largely cultivated for the manufacture of sugar and rum; but, owing to the heavy taxes and the difficulties of getting labour, many of the proprietors find it most difficult to make their business a paying concern. The island was formerly in the hands of the Sakalava tribe of Malagasy; who, to avoid falling into the hands of the Hovas, sought the help of the French at Bourbon, and in 1840, placed themselves and their country in their hands. The next year the French took formal possession of Nosi-bé, and have held it ever since.

* Maps, p. 300. The coast-line has been taken from the latest Admiralty chart.