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Review: North Africa after Herodotus

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AFRICA.

ALGERIA.

'Algiers and Beyond.' By M. W. Hilton-Simpson, F.R.G.S. 32 *Illustrations*. London: Hutchinson & Co. 1906.

This book consists of notes of travel in various parts of eastern Algeria during 1903 and 1905, and is written with the object of inducing more English people to visit comparatively little-known regions of that country. It contains a good deal of useful information, though it is in no sense a substitute for Sir Lambert Playfair's extremely valuable guide, published as one of Murray's handbooks. Mr. Hilton-Simpson writes sensibly on natural history and on the differences between the Berber and Arab inhabitants. Of the Arab husbandman he remarks aptly that prayer seems to be the principal means by which he cultivates his land. It is unfortunate that the French method of spelling native names has been adopted, and that much space is given up to trivialities; nor need the author have made such an open display of his ignorance of and lack of interest in the history and antiquities of Algeria. The illustrations, all from original photographs, are excellent and well chosen.

NORTH AFRICA AFTER HERODOTUS.

'Nordafrika (mit Ausschluss des Nilgebietes) nach Herodot.' Von Richard Neumann. Leipzig: Gustav Uhl (*n.d.*). *Price 2m.*

This is a book of value, which will interest alike the geographer, the naturalist, and the anthropologist. Commencing with a study of the climate, fertility, and habitability of North Africa (chap. i.), the author proceeds to deal with the topography and inhabitants of the North African coast (chaps. ii., v.), with the north-west littoral (chap. iii.), with the story of the journey of the young Nasamonians, with the oases more or less clearly noticed by Herodotus, and with the fauna and flora of the coastal, mountainous, and desert zones of North Africa. Herr Neumann is to be congratulated on the care and thoroughness of his Herodotean inquiries, on the manner in which he conducts his researches and presents his results, and, above all, on the valuable matter which he has to offer us—notably, as to ancient marriage customs, styles of armament, methods of fighting, and religious ideas and observances, among the natives of those parts of North Africa which fall within Herodotus' view. The treatment of the Ammon and Aujila oases, of that of the Garamantes, and of the Atlas mountain system, also deserves especial recognition. All students will be grateful to Herr Neumann for his elucidation of Herodotean Africa.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF MOROCCO.

'Dans le Bled es Siba. Explorations au Maroc. Mission de Segonzac.' Par Louis Gentil. Masson et C^{ie}. Paris: 1906.

THE journeys made by Mr. Gentil in Southern Morocco throw some welcome light both on the structure and topography of the little-known Atlas region. He crossed the High Atlas at four different points—over the Bibwan pass, the Tizi n Test, the Tizi n Takhrat, and the Tizi n Imuras—thus traversing on the southern side the low plain of the Sus, to which the mountains drop in the west, and the plateau draining to the Wady Draa, which flanks them on the east. Mr. Gentil also explored the great *massif* of Sirwa, which divides these two hydrographic basins, while between these different expeditions he spent some time investigating the coastal region south of Mogador. Here the actual littoral consists of a line of sand-dunes 350 to 450 feet high, backed by a resistant Tertiary sandstone plateau with a steep escarpment