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Review

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FULLER'S 'EGYPT AND THE HINTERLAND.'

Mr. F. W. Fuller has embodied in a bulky volume* a considerable amount of material collected by him during repeated visits paid to Egypt before and since the British occupation. There is a great deal of discursive matter on Mohammedan traditions, early history, persecutions, the Napoleonic episode, magic and witchcraft, with some other irrelevant topics, which look like padding. But enough solid information remains to justify the author's claim that the book may be regarded as a useful supplement and continuation of such standard works as Sir Alfred Milner's 'England in Egypt,' Mr. Silva White's 'Expansion of Egypt,' and Mr. W. Spencer Churchill's 'River War,' bringing events down to the close of the nineteenth century. Students of Church history will be attracted by the sections devoted to the Coptic Christians and their peculiar rites. But perhaps the most valuable part of the volume is that which is occupied with the present social conditions in the Nile valley—finance, the peasantry, mixed and national tribunals, administration of justice, land tenure, and the great drainage and irrigation works now in progress at Assuan and Assiut. "The fact is," writes Mr. Fuller, "that, as we stand upon the threshold of a new century, we are looking wistfully into an era of promise to Egypt in matters regarding water and justice which has never been dreamed of as possible—a complete water-supply, and a tangible system of justice all round, simplified by a complete revision of the whole Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes." Mr. Stanford supplies one of his useful large-scale maps, in which are clearly shown the respective spheres of the conterminous Anglo-Egyptian, French, Abyssinian, and Italian possessions, so far as determined by the latest international agreements. Unfortunately, no attempt has been made to conform the spelling of geographical names with that of the text, so that the usual discrepancies—Assiut and Siout, Assuan and Assouan, Massowa and Massawa, Fayum and Fayoom, Sudan and Soudan, etc.—still abound. But it is hopeless to look for consistency in these matters until some enterprising publisher undertakes the preparation of an authoritative geographical nomenclature.

THE FAYUM.

The volume of the Græco-Roman branch of the Egypt Exploration Fund, dealing with the recent discoveries of old documents in the Fayum,† contains much matter of quite exceptional interest, not only to students of palæography, but also to geographers and the general reader. It covers the two periods 1895–96 and 1898–99, and gives an exhaustive record of the excavations conducted by Messrs. Hogarth, Grenfell, and Hunt during those years in various parts of the Fayum depression. The general plan of publication is that adopted in previous volumes, the literary texts being printed as written except for the division of words, while the non-literary texts are reproduced in modern form with accents, breathings, and punctuation. A complete list of all the recovered documents, both papyri and ostraca (inscribed potsherds), is followed by a luminous treatise on the ancient geography of the Fayum, in which a laudable caution is displayed in the attempt to identify modern villages and other sites with those mentioned by the writers of

* 'Egypt and the Hinterland.' By Frederic Walter Fuller. Pp. xv. + 333. Longmans. 1901.

† 'Fayûm Towns and their Papyri.' By B. P. Grenfell, A. S. Hunt, and D. G. Hogarth, with a chapter by J. Grafton Milne. Pp. xvi. + 374. Offices of the Fund, 37, Great Russell Street, London.