In the Andamans and Nicobars by C. Boden Kloss; John Murray

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feet, and below them lie extensive moraines, which show that they were much longer formerly. Of the three streams which issue from the Borolmaz glacier, one, the Kara-Shura, breaks southwards through the range and falls into the Khingou under the name of Shakli-su. A fine view of the range is obtained from the Tun-guyuk-kul, a lake in the Surkab valley, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 miles long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 wide, and lying at an altitude of 10,700 feet. M. Lipski returned to Samarkand across the Alai and by Margelan.

TIN MINING IN THE MALAY PENINSULA.

Octave J. A. Collet. 'L'Étain, Étude Minière et Politique sur les États Fédérés Malais.' Brussels: Falk fils. [1902.]

The first title of this work would lead us to expect in it a study of tin and tin-mining in general. In reality the book, as the secondary title implies, is a monograph on the Federated Malay States and the mining industry practised in them—from which, it is true, no less than three-fifths of the total tin-supply of the world is derived. The first part consists of a clear summary of the geography and political history of the peninsula, a striking description being given of the recent development of the states under British protection. This development is, as is well known, almost entirely due to the progress made with the tin-mining industry of late years, and it is to an account of this that the larger part of the book is devoted. The broad features of the geology of the Malay peninsula, and the mode of occurrence of the tin deposits, are well described in the third chapter, while the manner of working the deposits, and the general economic position of the industry, are dealt with in the last three. At present the attention of the miners has been devoted almost entirely to the alluvial deposits in the valleys, but a more careful examination of the country is bound to reveal veins of tin ore *in situ*. Out of a total production of 75,000 odd tons in 1900, the Malay States were accountable for 42,000, and the whole Malay region (including Banka, Billiton, etc.) for 61,000. The production in England, Australia, and Bolivia reached only 4000, 3000, and a little under 7000 tons respectively, both the two former sources having shown a decided falling-off of late. The predominant position occupied by Malaysia is thus clearly shown. M. Collet considers that this region was the source of the tin-supply of the ancients, but does not solve the difficulty presented by the question of the transport of the ore in the small and frail vessels of those early times.

THE ANDAMANS AND NICOBARS.

'In the Andamans and Nicobars.' By C. Boden Kloss. John Murray.

This contribution to the accounts, more or less exhaustive, which have been published by travellers and by officials connected with the administration of the penal settlements at the Andamans and Nicobars since the annexation of those islands to the British Crown in 1858 and 1869 respectively, is a pleasantly written record of a successful cruise of some three months' duration (January to March, 1901) in these islands, "the main purpose of which was to obtain good representative collections (now in the National Museum, Washington, U.S.A.) of natural history and ethnological objects from the places visited. Special attention was given to the trapping of small mammals, which, comprising the least-known section of the island fauna, were the most interesting subject for investigation. Sixteen new varieties were obtained in the Andamans and Nicobars together, thus raising the known mammalian fauna of these islands from twenty-four to forty individuals, while the collections also included ten hitherto undescribed species of birds." Thus

is prefaced a work whose interest will be as great to the general as to the scientific reader, for Mr. Kloss brings to his task keen powers of observation and a freshness of style, while a certain dry humour is not absent from his pages. He has also evidently been at pains to inform himself of the works of many previous writers on the special objects of his cruise, as well as on the general geographical and ethnographical characteristics of the islands and their inhabitants; and by sundry well-chosen extracts from these records, places before his readers in a condensed form much information of great interest hitherto inaccessible to the general public. An excellent series of photographs taken by himself illustrates the text, while a chapter on the fauna of both groups of islands, together with useful appendices, a map, and a good index further enhance the value of the work.

Concerning the geology of the Andamans, Mr. Kloss writes, "It is curious that in the valley of the Irrawadi hot springs and other evidences of volcanic action occur in the same relative position to the Arakan hills as the two islands of Narkondam and Barren island occupy in respect to the Andamans. There seems little doubt that these two islands—now respectively extinct and quiescent—belong to the great line of volcanic disturbance that appears in Lower Burma and extends right through Sumatra and Java and the further islands of the Malay archipelago. Thus it would seem that the Andamans proper, possessed of no volcanoes themselves, lie just outside the line of activity, and, with the Nicobars, occupy the same position with regard to the volcanic track as do the chain of islands west of Sumatra." Had Mr. Kloss visited Narkondam as he did Barren island, he would have discovered that, though of volcanic origin, the island differs from its neighbour in possessing no volcano. It was, however, not until comparatively recent years that the long-prevalent belief in the existence of a volcano there was found to be incorrect.

Mr. Kloss points out that the great peculiarity of the Andaman flora is that no coconuts naturally propagated are found throughout the group, although the adjacent Cocos islands to the north and the Nicobar islands to the south are covered with them. In regard to this, it may be remarked that a considerable extent of the Andaman coast is protected by reefs, or consists of mangrove swamps or dense jungle where coconuts could not establish themselves; and it is doubtless mainly due to the special measures taken by the local authorities to protect the seedlings when planting them that, in the localities suited to their propagation, such as open sandy beaches, they have nowadays escaped destruction at the hands of the aborigines, as well as from pigs, rats, etc.

Of the aborigines Mr. Kloss truly remarks that "it would be impossible to find a race of purer descent, for ever since they peopled the islands in the Stone Age they have remained secluded from the outer world, and to this isolation is due the uniformity so marked in their physical and mental characteristics. In stature they are far below the average height; but, although they have been called dwarfs and pygmies, these words must not be understood to imply anything in the nature of a monstrosity. Their reputation for hideousness, like their poisoned arrows and cannibalism, has long been a fallacy, which, although widely popular, should now be exploded."

On the subject of the long-continued decadence of the native race, he writes, "The population of the islands has been computed from time to time—from the 6000 at the period of the founding of the settlement—in variously diminishing numbers down to the present day, when it is placed at about 1900. The case affords a striking example of the effect of contact between civilized and savage man, for only those tribes of the Andamanese that are still hostile, or who have little or no intercourse with the Government settlement, have preserved any

respectable number of individuals in their ranks. Of these, the Jarawas, although not distantly located from the settlement, receive all advances with inveterate implacability; while the Üngés of Little Andaman, who were until 1884 almost totally unvisited, are further off and enjoy an insular position."

As, however, only two of the twelve weeks passed in these groups were spent at the Andamans, Mr. Kloss has naturally more to say regarding the Nicobars and their inhabitants, based on the notes and observations made during the ten weeks that the yacht was cruising in the archipelago. His mode of spelling the names of certain of the islands is unfamiliar to those best acquainted with them, and is apparently copied from the excellent charts prepared in 1886-87 by Lieut.-Colonel G. Strahan, R.E., of the Survey of India.

Mr. Kloss has much of interest to relate of these islands and their scattered communities; he was fortunate in arriving during the celebration of certain memorial feasts, and also in meeting several members of the friendly branch of the remote inland tribe of Great Nicobar, known to the coast people as "Shom Peñ." ("Shom," in the dialect of the coast tribes, signifies "natives," and "Peñ" the tribal designation.)

It has long been held by the Government authorities—and Mr. Kloss is of the same opinion—that the members of the inland tribe, which is nowadays confined to the only large island of the archipelago, are descendants of the ancient aborigines of the group, who, "although everywhere else either exterminated or absorbed by settlers from outside, have in Great Nicobar found a refuge in the forest depths, and by long-standing hostility to the intruders, arising from some unknown cause, have preserved to a great extent their natural traits and existence, although somewhat degenerated, both on account of the less favourable circumstances in which they live, and of the interbreeding that the smallness of their numbers compels." As regards the coast inhabitants, Mr. Kloss adduces good grounds for the diversities of type noticeable among the natives of the various islands of the group.

In view of the fact that Mr. Kloss succeeded in amassing much detailed information on a great variety of subjects during his brief tour, it is somewhat surprising to find that he makes no reference to the remarkable robber-crab (*Birgus latro*), or to pythons and snakes, all of which are fairly numerous at most of the Nicobar islands. The late Dr. V. Ball, F.R.S., author of the valuable work entitled 'Jungle Life in India,' regarded the Nicobar robber-crab as an object of such interest that he decorated the cover of his book with a sketch of this peculiar crustacean.

But, in spite of certain errors and omissions which could hardly be avoided in observations made in the course of so brief a visit by one unacquainted with any of the dialects of the races concerning which he was writing, Mr. Kloss is to be heartily congratulated on his valuable contribution to our present knowledge of these islands and their inhabitants. It is to be hoped that this is not the only work we shall have from the pen of so competent an observer and explorer.

E. H. M.

AFRICA.

THE CONGO STATE.

'Civilization in Congoland: A Story of International Wrong-doing.' By H. R. Fox Bourne. London: P. S. King & Son. 1903.

Without discussing the merits of the controversy now raging with regard to the administration of the Congo State—a theme which hardly comes within the province of a Geographical Journal—we may safely say that this is a book which