Review

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'Britain's Sea Story.' By E. E. Speight and R. Morton Nance. (London: Frowde. 1909. Pp. xiii., 427. *Illustrations*. 5s.) That a third edition of this collection should have been called for is a tribute to the care exercised by the editors in selecting the extracts from early narratives which form the bulk of the volume. The introduction on ancient and mediæval ship-building is most interesting. The book is designed on popular lines, to which garish coloured illustrations seem almost necessarily, in these days, to belong.

'Great and Greater Britain.' By J. Ellis Barker. (London: Smith, Elder. 1909. Pp. x., 380. 10s. 6d.) This volume of social, political, and imperial essays appears at an appropriate time. The essayist has the advantage that partisanship is expected of him, and Mr. Barker supports his contentions ably. One may notice here that in his first chapters he introduces as an illustration a concise sketch of mediæval economic geography in Europe, and other similar examples show the wide scope of the work.

'Cambridge County Geographies. Westmorland.' By J. E. Marr. (Cambridge: University Press. 1909. Pp. ix., 151. *Maps and Illustrations*. 1s. 6d.) This series seems to improve as it grows. In no volume which has been before us hitherto has the text, necessarily compressed as it is, been written with such interest of style, in none have the illustrations been so generally excellent, nor has the impression of value for the remarkably low price been so strongly conveyed. The fine scenery of the county receives full measure of scientific and artistic treatment.

The same. 'Gloucestershire.' By H. A. Evans. (Cambridge: University Press. 1909. Pp. ix., 155. *Maps and Illustrations*. 1s. 6d.) This volume is also very well written, and nothing could be better than the selection of illustrations, which show very well the scenic and architectural characteristics of the shire.

'Highlands and Byways in Middlesex.' By W. Jerrold. (London: Macmillan. 1909. Pp. xviii., 400. *Maps and Illustrations*. 6s.) The present volume will take a high place among those of this well-known series. Mr. Jerrold's style is no less engaging than that of any of his fellow-authors, while Mr. Hugh Thomson's illustrations are better than many others.

'The Isle of Man.' By Agnes Herbert. (London: Lane. 1909. Pp. xvi., 270. *Illustrations*. 10s. 6d. net.) This is avowedly a "colour-book," and in such the text often has a secondary part. This cannot be said of Miss Herbert's, which is always pleasant reading, though pretending nothing great in the way of scientific or historical worth. Some of Mr. Maxwell's pictures are pleasing, and the book is worth the notice of those who want impressions of the island.

'British Mountain Climbs.' By G. D. Abraham. (London: Mills & Boon. 1909. Pp. xvi., 448. *Illustrations and Diagrams*. 7s. 6d.) Mr. Abraham has given us good reason to expect an authoritative and attractive volume whenever he deals with this subject. In the present case his object is to provide a handbook of convenient size, and this is done successfully in spite of the large number of pages and the usual clever illustrations from the author's camera. The climbing directions read explicitly, and are arranged on clear topographical plans. References are given to Ordnance Survey maps.

'Conway and Coolidge's Climbers' Guides. The Bernese Oberland.' Vol. 1, part I. By the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1909. Pp. xxiv., 155. 10s.) The new edition of this volume of a well-known series has been carefully rewritten and brought up to date. It is of service not only to climbers, but to ordinary pedestrians as well, and it contains interesting studies of the history of the names borne by the various peaks and passes. While the book

is of unique value in authority, its style of production would seem hardly to justify its price.

'Italy To-day.' By Bolton King and T. Okey. (London: Nisbet. 1909. Pp. xii., 414. 6s.) This volume has already been recognized as an authority on the intricate questions of Italian home affairs, and the new edition has not only been brought up to date, but considerably expanded. The student of economic geography will find here a plethora of facts and figures, the latter properly adapted to English usage.

'Grieben's Guide Books: Lakes of Northern Italy and Milan.' (London: Williams & Norgate. 1909. Pp. 153. *Maps*. 3s.) This seems to be a good ordinary guide, but suffers noticeably from indifferent translation in parts. Its chief recommendation is its handy size.

'Bosnia and Herzegovina.' By Maude M. Holbach. (London: Lane. 1910 (*sic*). Pp. 249. *Map and Illustrations*. 5s.) This volume, with its excellent photographs, gives an attractive account of a country little known to the tourist, but probably soon to become better known. The style is light and pleasant reading, and the book, though mostly a personal narrative, will be found serviceable to intending travellers in the country.

ASIA.

SIKKIM AND BHUTAN.

'Sikkim and Bhutan: Twenty-one Years on the North-East Frontier.' By John Claude White. London: E. Arnold. 1909. 21s. *net*.

A veritable land of enchantment is that far end of the Himalayas which includes Sikkim and Bhutan—of enchantment, that is to say, in all that pertains to those lasting impressions which are derived from the most magnificent scenery that the world can produce. But it must be confessed that the enchantment is largely tempered by certain physical disadvantages, amongst which are to be reckoned a plague of leeches and the persistent trouble of a heavy rainfall. Possibly these two great plagues are intimately related. The memory of Bhutan (across an interval of nearly fifty years) recalls firstly the wide flat spaces of the Duars, thickly covered with dense grass, through which an elephant or a rhinoceros could push his way with difficulty, and beneath which tigers could sneak along the narrow tracks trodden by the hosts of smaller game. Then came the forest growth of the foothills, with magnificent trees and a spread of bamboo jungle such as is unknown in the undulating plains of the Indian peninsula. These filled the low steaming valleys and reached upwards to 10,000 feet of altitude. Beyond this, again, past the forests where the long grey beards of lichen drooping from the branches lent an air of venerable age to the moist scenery, and where leeches curled themselves in myriads in the tangled undergrowth, is the Bhutan of Mr. Claude White, spreading itself in majestic grandeur to the cold passes of Tibet; crowned with a magnificent array of snow-capped peaks, with here and there open valleys and grassy undulations, carpets of flowers, and all the glory of scarlet rhododendrons massed in such a blaze of colour that the eye is almost wearied with its profusion.

Mr. White is by training an engineer whose opportunities of dealing directly with the native officials of this Eastern frontier land specially qualified him for the interesting political duties which he was long ago called upon by the Indian Government to undertake. His sympathetic nature and power of ready adaptability to strange circumstances and surroundings have been valuable assets in the making of his career, but it is only his love of adventure and his deep appreciation of all that is beautiful in nature and art which render him capable of presenting to the public a book so full of interest as that which we have just read. It is not often