Review: Mount Elgon and Eastern Uganda

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2500 feet, and they branch off from the western wall of the Great Rift Valley and pass away from it until they trend south-westward; the largest, the Wembere-Nyarasa rift valley, bends round again to a meridional course in the southern part of the area. This valley includes the salt-lake of Nyarasa (or Eyassi). Parallel to it, to the south-east, is a narrower rift valley named by the author the Hohenlohe rift valley. Still further to the south-east is the sunkland of Tungobesh; its floor is covered with volcanic tuffs and contains sixteen craters, many of which contain lakes; the author describes some of these lakes as "Maare," and he regards their basins as due to volcanic explosions.

The final chapter describes the general geography of the basins without outlets, and the author refers to the lake terraces around Lake Suess in British East Africa, and around the lakes on the German side of the frontier as evidence of a former wetter period. He also discusses the origin of the isolated rocky hills known as "Inselberge," which he attributes to the effects of denudation and to the widening of valleys cutting away sheets of similar rocks; he rejects the hypothesis that they are intrusive masses which have been left as hills by the removal of surrounding softer rocks.

The work is accompanied by several valuable maps, including one of the area around the Nyarasa rift valley and extending eastward to Lake Manyara on the scale of 1 to 300,000, one of the Riesenkrater highlands on the scale of 1 to 150,000, and geological and botanical maps on the scale of 1 to 1,000,000.

J. W. G.

MOUNT ELGON AND EASTERN UGANDA.

'Quer Durch Uganda: Eine Forschungsreise in Zentral-Afrika, 1911-12.' By Rudolf Kmunke. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen). 1913.

The work under review is as beautifully produced as are most of the publications of the house of Dietrich Reimer. It is a credit to German typography, as it is to their art of photograph reproduction. The coloured plates, most if not all of them actual colour photographs, are not perhaps as strikingly good or vivid in tint as some others in contemporary works on Africa, but they are free from falsity, and give a more vivid impression of the strange Alpine vegetation of Equatorial Africa than mere black and white could do. The photographs of negro and negroid types of the eastern portion of the Uganda Protectorate will alone give the work a position of importance in ethnographical literature. They are the means of revealing to us (if we were not previously aware of their existence) tribes of Nilotic negroes whose bodily conformation amongst the men is singularly handsome and statuesque, though the beauty perhaps stops short of the facial lineaments. As examples to justify this assertion I would refer to the picture opposite p. 104, young Tobur men, and the young Chief of Nagua, between pp. 80 and 81. The companion study of a Karamojo guide alongside this last shows the average "Bantu" type of negro as contrasted with the more negroid Nilote. Although the Karamojo now speak a Nilotic language, they seem from several points of view to have been originally a Bantu people—a theory first put forth by Oskar Neumann.

In the autumn of 1911, Herr Kmunke (accompanied by Dr. Robert Stiegler) left Europe for East Africa and made his way through the now hackneyed regions of British East Africa to Entebbe and Mengo, the European and native capitals of the kingdom of Buganda. Here he made the acquaintance of Sir Frederick Jackson (whose Christian name, by-the-by, he misrenders). Sir Frederick Jackson gave him all the requisite facilities and assistance for the

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scientific investigation of the Uganda Protectorate. From Entebbe, therefore, this Austrian expedition directed itself through Busoga to the slopes of the great Elgon volcano, which it was Herr Kmunke's special desire to explore.

Considering its striking appearance and its particularly interesting fauna, flora, and human inhabitants, it is remarkable that we should have had to wait as long as nearly twenty years for a renewal of the exploration of the highest points of the rim of Elgon's crater commenced in 1890 by Sir Frederick Jackson and Mr. Ernest Gedge. These travellers reached a point which they estimated at 14,044 feet, judging the highest peak (to which, however, they apparently gave no name) to be not more than 50 feet higher. The Kmunke expedition ascended various prominences on the rim of the crater and determined their altitudes. To one of these peaks they very rightly gave the name of Jackson, and calculated it to be 4311 metres in altitude (14,144 feet). To another columnar mass they gave the name of Kaiser-Franz-Josef, reckoning its altitude as 4382 metres (14,377 feet). Kaiser-Franz-Josef peak is on the extreme north of the rim of this vast crater (about 10 miles across at its widest), and Jackson peak on the extreme south. But to the east of Kaiser-Franz-Josef peak is marked on Kmunke's map an even higher prominence, calculated at 4445 metres (14,584 feet), and this point (which may turn out to be the highest peak of Elgon) remains unnamed.

The data given are not sufficient to enable us to determine authoritatively to what extent Herr Kmunke's expedition has really covered new ground and supplemented the original report of the Jackson-Gedge expedition. Some dissatisfaction has also been evinced in that the Austrian explorer should have given to a point in British territory the name of his venerated ruler. Apparently before doing so he wrote to Sir Frederick Jackson and secured his assent in a telegram. If the matter is to be argued out to a fine point of etiquette, it would, perhaps, have been better if the question had been referred not only to Sir Frederick Jackson and Mr. Gedge as the first explorers of Elgon, but also to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies. However, if, as seems to be surmised by Herr Kmunke, there remains yet a higher peak to be scaled, our own sovereign may some day share honours with the Austrian emperor. Of course, in the ordinary way it is becoming most distasteful to geographers that the names of foreign personages should be applied to prominent geographical features in newly explored countries in lieu of widely accepted native names. But it would be difficult to find, either on Ruwenzori or on Elgon, indisputable and distinct native appellations of the more prominent points of the Alpine region so rarely visited by them. In all such instances no more correct procedure could be followed than that of the Duke of the Abruzzi.

From Elgon, Kmunke's expedition pursued a very interesting route through little-known country across Lake Salisbury (otherwise Lake Kumi), through the Teso country and the mountains of Nakwa and Tobur to the Acholi country and the Nile at Nimule, whence the expedition returned to Europe *via* Khartum. Meteorological observations were taken and collections of birds and objects of ethnological interest were made. Altogether the work is one of great interest, especially to the ethnologist, and it stands out in pleasant contrast to some other recently published books on Africa, in that it gives full credit for their work to previous explorers.

H. H. JOHNSTON.