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Kara Su, that it might well be conceived that before the waters of the lake were dammed up by the overflow of lava, of which the Tacht Ali constitutes the culminating point, the natural course of these rivers of Van would have been by the valley of the Kara Su; and what can be more probable than that, after the epoch of the overflow, or at the very time of that overflow, they were able to maintain their old course, only by a subterranean channel?

Another objection might be suggested inasmuch as the amount of water, although very considerable, scarcely equals what might be expected from the outpour of so vast a lake as that of Van. But to this latter objection it may be opposed that no outlet save this is at present known.

It is, however, by no means certain that some of the tributaries to the river Tigris, so carefully delineated in Captain Maunsell's map as having their origin close to the southerly and outer crust or lip of the basin of Lake Van, may not be derived from the percolation of the waters of the lake through the said outer crust, just as is opined of the Nūr-shīn crater-fountain in an opposite direction.

This, however, remains a question for further minute topographical investigation, and, should such be the case, Lake Van would have (and examples of such are well known) outlets for its surplus waters, to the Euphrates on the one side, and to the Tigris on the other.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF PERSIA.*

By SIR FREDERIC J. GOLDSMID, K.C.S.I., C.B.

By direction of the French Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, M. J. de Morgan left Paris for Tehran in September, 1889, on a scientific mission, the nature of which will be understood from the classification of its results under the four heads of (1) Geographical, (2) Linguistic and Ethnographical, (3) Archæological, (4) Geological and Palæontological. Accompanied by his wife and an old soldier-servant, he reached the Shah's capital by the well-known route of Baku, Resht, and Kazvin. There, by aid of the French Legation, he was enabled to organize his camp and make all necessary arrangements for the contemplated exploration; and, late in November, he broke ground in the direction of the Lār valley. The mission, after a halt of some days at Rehna, near the foot of Demavend, found its way to Amol, a town of varied fortunes, and thence into the lower plains of Mazanderan, amid marshes and streams. From Amol its course was an easterly one, and, visiting Barfarush, Sari, and Ashraf, it arrived at Asterabad, where it

* 'Mission Scientifique en Perse,' par J. de Morgan. Tome premier. Etudes Géographiques. Paris: E. Leroux, 1894.

met with a kind reception from the governor and other residents. After a month's exploration in these parts, it returned westward along the shores of the Caspian—on the right of the Shah Abbas causeway—to Gilan, having taken occasion to visit Ferahabad, the favourite residence of the great Abbas, Mashhad-i-Sar, Aliabad, and the district of Tune-kabun, of which the "Khorremabad" of Mr. Curzon's map is an interesting village. Crossing the Kizil Uzun in a boat, the explorers arrived for the second time at Resht, and then proceeded from that place into the Russian Talish, by Astara and Lenkoran. Two months were passed in exploring the mountainous country inland of these roadsteads, one of the main objects of research being the local burial grounds, an inspection of the several examples of which resulted in the discovery of no fewer than 220 tombs. But the action of the Russian Government put a stop to this process of archæological investigation; and, the return of the mission to Lenkoran, and interchange of telegrams with the French Embassy at St. Petersburg having failed to effect a renewal of operations, a move was decided upon to the Little Caucasus. Early in July, then, the small party of explorers, passing up the whole length of Lenkoran, entered the plain of Moghan at Balasui-var, and reached the Araxes at Karadui. Thence crossing the river, they moved among the mountains to Shusha, from which point they turned south to Tabriz, recrossing the Araxes by the Khudafrin bridge, and following the road through the Karadagh, west of Ahar.

For the "Geography" of the book under notice, the journey above sketched out may be held to include the main work of M. de Morgan's *Mission scientifique*, because the shores of the Caspian and contiguous provinces occupy the lion's share of the ground he has described. With respect to the time taken up in accomplishing the objects proposed, it certainly represents the larger half, though we may roughly estimate a full year in 1889-90 for the one, and a full year in 1890-91 for the other division. In making a fresh start from Tabriz, a valuable addition to the staff of the mission was found in the person of Colonel Abdi Tataos Khan, a young artillery officer of eight and twenty, who spoke equally well English, French, Turkish, Persian, and Armenian. The grant of his services was but one of many acts of courtesy, on the part of the higher authorities, which M. de Morgan experienced in Azerbaijan, and which he now gratefully acknowledges. "Reçus de la façon la plus gracieuse par S. A. I. le prince Héritier, S. A. l'Emir Nizam, alors Gouverneur-Général de l'Azerbeidjan, par S. E. Nousseret-ed-Dôlet, actuellement Gouverneur à Tauris," are his words, and again, "nous avons passé à Tauris quelques jours charmants." It need scarcely be added that the French minister at Tehran and his coadjutor the French consul-general at Tabriz had something to do with bringing about this partly moral but wholly substantial support.

The party now proceeded in a southerly direction by Maragha, and,

east of the Urmiya, or Urmi lake, to Miandoab, where the Kurdish population is said to begin. Though well treated at Suj Bulak and in the Mukri * district, where a comparatively civilized chief named Saifu'd-din exercised rule, the rougher side of the Kurdish character was manifested towards them further on, at Sakiz and Bana. These two districts, which form part of the province of Sehna, contain a population of whom many are hostile to strangers. M. de Morgan, in active search of Assyrian inscriptions, the existence of which had been indicated by Sir H. Rawlinson, penetrated the valley of Kelvi (or Lesser Zab) to Sardasht, a mountain village; but the difficulties foreshadowed in an attempt to carry on his work satisfactorily among Turkish Kurds caused him eventually to modify his original intention of attaining the right bank of the Tigris at Mosul, and to prefer passing south into Luristan, thus remaining under the ægis of Franco-Persian protection. Retracing his steps to Mukri, he took advantage of the hospitality of Saifu'd-din to locate Madame de Morgan in that chief's stronghold at Sardárad, and himself posted back to Tabriz, there to mature and discuss his modified plans in the society of influential advisers. Having rejoined his lady on the completion of his arrangements, M. de Morgan left Sardarabad on November 20. Space would fail us to follow the mission, step by step, through the remainder of its progress. Suffice it to say, it had many troubles to encounter, at one time owing to severe snowstorms which occasioned serious loss of life, and general inclemency of the climate; at another, from the rough treatment of the natives, as at Hamadan and Asadabad. Among the places visited may be named Burujird, Ushtara Kuh; the post-road stations between Hamadan and Baghdad; Shuster, Dizful, Ahwaz, Mohammerah, Bushire. On December 1, 1891, the mission had returned to Paris.

Judging from the section of "Geography," the whole work should form a notable addition to the bibliography of Persia. Its letterpress and illustrations are worthy of Leroux, though a few of the photographs are somewhat uneven in execution. The volume now before us includes a preface and ten main divisions; one of these, "*Les Rives Méridionales de la Mer Caspienne, entre l'Atrek et l'Araxe*," is subdivided under six minor heads. There is also attached a very useful "*Répertoire des Noms Géographiques*," which gives the names of places both in the Persian and Roman character.

In conclusion, we would add that the greater the number of ministers of instruction and the fine arts that can be found, throughout the civilized world, ready to despatch scientific missions into lands possessing material for intelligent exploration, the better for the army of readers who profit from their results. The three new maps, the production of which is due to M. de Morgan's labours, are those of—

* Curzon and Thielmann call it Mikri.

1. The Southern Shores of the Caspian, including Asterabad, Mazanderán, Gilan, and the Talish.
2. Mukri Kurdistan.
3. Elam.

MR. CLEMENT LEY'S WORK ON CLOUDS.*

By H. N. DICKSON, F.R.S.E.

At a time when the burning question amongst meteorologists is that of cloud classification and cloud nomenclature, it is specially satisfactory to have a complete summing up and judgment from one who has devoted the greater part of his life to a study of this subject, and who has long enjoyed a European reputation as a skilled observer of clouds. Innumerable as have been the improvements and modifications proposed from time to time on Howard's original nomenclature, these have hitherto consisted almost entirely of subdivisions of Howard's three great classes—the cirrus, the stratus, and the cumulus; and the divisions into intermediate forms have been for the most part quite arbitrary, limited in number by the observer's supposed powers of discrimination. Mr. Ley takes advantage of our increased knowledge of the mechanism of atmospheric currents, and his book is an attempt to classify the results of his lifelong observation according to the different conditions which we now know give rise to the formation of clouds. Utilizing Helmholtz's deductions as to the wave surface of a current of air produced by another current of air flowing over it, Mr. Ley includes all the stratiform clouds under the term "Clouds of Interfret." Cumuliform clouds come under the heading "Clouds of Inversion," their formation being ascribed to condensation in ascending currents; and the luminous and cirriform clouds, formed of falling particles which tend to "lag" as they enter lower and more slowly moving strata, are termed "Clouds of Inclination." Under these three types are included all the observed forms, except ground-fogs and haze, which are called "clouds of radiation," and the greater part of the book is devoted to a description of the species occurring under each head as a consequence of special conditions modifying the processes of interfret, inversion, or inclination. Seventeen species are considered sufficient to cover the most frequent cases, and the classification is completed by nine more specialized forms. Although the number of different kinds is considerable, the method at once commends itself as enabling the observer to connect each cloud-picture with distinct physical processes going on in the atmosphere.

In the latter part of the work the author discusses the general

* 'Cloudland: A Study on the Structure and Characters of Clouds.' By the Rev. W. Clement Lay. London: E. Stanford, 1894.