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REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

'LANDS and Their Stories.' III. 'England and the English.' By A. J. Berry. (Pp. 200. 1s. 3d.) V. 'Europe and its Peoples.' By H. W. Palmer. (Pp. 288. London: Blackie. 1910. *Maps and Illustrations*. 1s. 8d.) The volumes of this series are clearly intended to relieve the tedium of the cram-book. It is hardly to be hoped that they should replace them, as they are in the nature of scrap-books, taking up one historical incident after another mainly on the score of interest to the child. There are some good sketch-maps and a miscellaneous assortment of illustrations, including reproductions in colour of well-known paintings of appropriate interest. The whole idea has much to commend it, though the writers' enthusiasm for it sometimes carries them rather far in colloquialism, and the desirability of excursions into poetry and fiction (even as vehicles of instruction) is questionable. There are no indexes, and the books are not easy to consult on specific points.

'Guide to Italy and Sicily.' (6th edit.) (London: Macmillan. 1911. Pp. cxxviii., 394, 4. *Maps*. 10s.) This is an admirable guide of the encyclopædic sort, since, although full attention is given to possible routes, the main part of the text is arranged under the headings of place-names in alphabetical order. The fact that the present edition has undergone revision at the hands of Dr. Thomas Ashby, Director of the British School at Rome, sufficiently guarantees the whole work, and especially the archæological portions.

'Bohemia and the Čechs.' By W. S. Monroe. (London: Bell. 1910. Pp. xxiv., 488. *Illustrations*. 7s. 6d.) This is a serious attempt to present in a small compass a review of the land of Bohemia and its people in their historical and modern sociological aspects. In the first chapter the geographical individuality of Bohemia is recognized at the outset, and the individual point of view is carefully preserved throughout, the German element in the population finding place in the book to the extent of only one chapter. After six historical chapters the modern position of the Czechs in sociology and the arts is fully considered, together with education, the language and literature, industry, and commerce. Prague and other important towns are described in some detail, and there is a final chapter on Moravia and Siberia. Appendices give suggestions for travellers in Bohemia, and a bibliography, which appears to bear out the claim that the present work is the first general survey of Bohemia in English.

ASIA.

AFGHANISTAN.

'Afghanistan: the Buffer State. Great Britain and Russia in Central Asia.' By Captain Gervais Lyons. London: Luzac. 1910. 7s. 6d. net.

The author, being a fluent Russian scholar and personally acquainted with the dominions of the Czar, has had exceptional opportunities of ascertaining the views of distinguished Russians, soldiers, and civilians on Central Asian matters. On his return to India in 1907 he delivered some lectures on "An Invasion of India from a Russian Point of View," which have been since expanded into the present volume. As an effort to bring up to date the Central Asian question, the work may prove useful; but it is disappointing to find how little attention is given to Baluchistan as a possible highway of

approach to India from the west, while, amid various projected railways discussed, the scheme of a trans-Arabian railway line with the view of directly connecting Egypt with Quetta is not referred to, though it has an important bearing on the vexed question of the prolongation of the Baghdad railway to the Persian gulf which is now exciting so much discussion in the press. The book has an introductory note by Lieut.-General Sir Reginald C. Hart, K.C.B., and is published with the official sanction of the Army Council.

A BORNEAN PEOPLE.

'Seventeen Years among the Sea Dyaks of Borneo: A Record of Intimate Association with the Natives of the Bornean Jungles.' By Edwin H. Gomes; and an Introduction by the Rev. John Perham. *With 40 Illustrations and a Map.* London: Seeley & Co., 1911. 16s. net.

The Sea Dyaks, or Iban as ethnologists now prefer to term them, are such an interesting people, and have played such an important part in the recent history of Sarawak, that it is only fitting they should have a book to themselves, and few are more competent to write upon them than a missionary who has spent the best years of his life in trying to improve their condition. Mr. Gomes has an intimate knowledge of the manner of life, customs, and beliefs of these people, but his evident liking for and sympathy with them does not blind him to the defects of their character or to their unprogressive mode of life; indeed, he does not draw a very hopeful picture of their future, unless they amend their ways. He barely alludes to the other peoples of Sarawak, for, despite his title, it is only of the Sea Dyaks of Sarawak that he deals, and of these he is mainly concerned with certain groups, though what he says applies to the Sea Dyaks as a whole. While not a monograph in the strict sense of the term, the book gives a description of the people, which is quite adequate for all classes of readers except ethnological experts, and even these will find many new facts to interest them and valuable accounts of the practices of the *manong*, or witch-doctor, of feasts, and various ceremonies and customs. It is a great convenience to have a particular tribe described so fully as the reader can gain a reliable impression of a barbaric jungle folk who have been but very slightly influenced from outside. It is also of importance to trace the beginning of the effects of the white man's civilization and religion. There is appended a convenient glossary of Dyak words and phrases which occur in the body of the book. Special praise must be given to the number and excellence of the photographs, many of which were taken by Dr. C. Hose; they really do illustrate the text.

A. C. H.

'Guide to Palestine and Syria.' (5th edit.) (London: Macmillan. 1910. Pp. xxxi., 164. *Maps.* 5s.) This guide, which is arranged on the ordinary lines according to routes, has undergone thorough revision. Its convenient size and particularly clear printing are commendable.

'An Illustrated Guide to the Federated Malay States.' Edited by C. W. Harrison. (London: Malay States Development Agency. *N.d.* Pp. 333. *Map and Illustrations.* 2s. 6d.) This is a practical and readable volume, affording clear directions to the traveller, whether by rail, motor-car, or ghari, over all parts of the Malay States which have been opened up by railway and the fine system of roads. Exhaustive tables are given of distances, weights and measures, and alternative methods of using shorter or longer periods at the disposal of visitors; and the illustrations assist in making clear the peculiar attractions of