WILEY

Review

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acceptance; he thinks that the account of the voyage indicates that Hanno sailed as far as the Cameroons. Dr. Claridge writes with good judgment on another vexed point—the claim of the Normans to have discovered the Gold-Coast prior to the Portuguese. The evidence in favour of the French claim “is somewhat inconclusive and meagre,” but it is sufficient to forbid our dismissing the claim as disproved.

Never before has the story of the dealings of the British and other Europeans with the Gold Coast and Ashanti been told so fully; indeed, so packed is this book with facts that the narrative on occasion tends to become a chronicle of events rather than a true history. We should have been glad if some of the records had been condensed and more adequate accounts given of the early migration, mentality, social life, religious beliefs, industries and handicrafts of the Fantis and Ashantis. A more thorough treatment of the effects of missionary enterprise and of the gold and slave trades might also reasonably be expected. A chapter might likewise have been devoted to a description of physical features. Geographical factors have had a profound influence on the history of the West Coast. These factors Dr. Claridge scarcely sufficiently emphasizes, and we agree with Sir H. Clifford in the belief that he considers the climate worse than it is. Several of the causes of the former great mortality among Europeans are preventable, and not inherent in the climate.

There are six or seven sketch-maps in these volumes, including one (after d’Anville) giving the distribution of the native states in 1729. We should have liked more maps. A map of the Ashanti empire, defining its limits at various periods as well as the boundaries of its component states, is sadly to seek. A political map showing the parts of the coast held at different periods by European nations and the gradual spread of British influence inland would have been welcome.

No historian can be, perhaps no historian should be, absolutely impartial, and Dr. Claridge writes as, one may say, a pro-Ashanti, without however neglecting to present the case for the other side. This bias gives a certain piquancy to the story of the British dealings with the Ashanti. While the book is lengthy—there are over 1200 pages—the attention of the reader is sustained both by its intrinsic interest and by the fluent style of the author.

F. R. C.

Egypt of the Egyptians.— **W. Lawrence Balls.** London: Pitman. 1915. Pp. ix., 249. *Maps and Illustrations.* 6s. net.

The author has spent nine years in Egypt and is well qualified to speak authoritatively on native problems. He deals in the first three chapters with the history of Egypt. Here space has obliged him to compress almost to the limit of real utility. The rest of the book is more satisfactory, especially the account of irrigation and crops and the influence of geographical conditions on the life and ideals of the fellahin. The author’s aims are admirably illustrated in the introduction, where he says, “The whole problem of Egypt is one of education, though not in the ordinary sense. Let it be clearly understood from the commencement that the average modern Egyptian can do certain things, within a limited range of activities, better than any one else; he will, for example, take a field of uneven land and arrange it in a series of plots differing in level by steps of an inch or two from one another, and without more than an inch of variation in level within any one plot, so that all can be irrigated easily from the highest corner of the field thus made; and this he will do with only his eye to guide his actions.” In other words, the author sets himself to explain

the mental attitude of the fellahin by describing thoroughly his environment, and has produced a readable work which is popular without the loss of scientific accuracy. Many of his descriptions of scenery are remarkably graphic, and the illustrations, which are well chosen, have as a rule a rather unusual geographical value. On the whole the book is to be recommended to all interested in the modern development of Egypt.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

An Untamed Territory.— **Elsie R. Masson.** London: Macmillan. 1915. Pp. xii., 181. *Maps and Illustrations.* 6s.

This book, short as it is and dealing mostly with the personal experiences of a visitor to the Northern Territory of Australia, is a really valuable addition to the literature on that territory. It is so because the writer has an excellent gift of description and a power of avoiding trivialities. Her accounts of a motor journey into the bush—a pioneer journey by car—of the deserted station of Port Essington, of the trip up the Roper River, and of the trial of natives for the murder of a white man, are admirable of their kind, and these are only a few examples of a series of vivid verbal pictures.

The book will supply in the future an interesting record of the condition of the territory in its present stage of transition towards that full development and prosperity to which those who have set their hands to it still look forward with confidence, although this “untamed” land has repulsed till now so many efforts towards its reclamation. The name of the writer gives reason to expect a high literary standard and that expectation is not disappointed; the book is both well written and well constructed, and if it be the first the writer has put forth, it may be hoped that opportunities for further work of this character will not be denied to her.

GENERAL.

Sport, Travel, and Adventure.— **A. G. Lewis.** London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1915. Pp. 352. *Illustrations.* 10s. 6d. net.

A collection of extracts from a large number of books of travel, most if not all of which have been published by Mr. Fisher Unwin. The editor naively remarks that it is hoped the perusal of these samples will send readers to the originals. The extracts have been made with judgment, to suit the popular taste, and are skilfully grouped according to subjects. They are varied in character, and have a wide geographical range.

Portolan Atlas: Joan Martines en Messina Año 1582.— Facsimile, with Introduction by **Edward Luther Stevenson, Ph.D.** New York: Hispanic Society of America. (London: Quaritch.) 1915. Size 25½ × 19½ ins. 55s.

The Society is once more indebted to the Hispanic Society of America, through its energetic secretary Prof. E. L. Stevenson, for the gift of a splendidly produced facsimile of one of the examples of early cartography possessed by that Society. The Portolan Atlas of Joan (Joannes) Martines, made at Messina in 1582, is a fine specimen of the later MS. atlases which continued to be produced in Italy and elsewhere long after the developments of printing and engraving had provided the public of those days with more easily multiplied aids to geographical knowledge. This is the later of two separate atlases by the same author in the possession of the Hispanic Society, and one of nineteen different charts or atlases known to have been produced by him at Messina—several of them now preserved in the British Museum—at dates