Abyssinia and British East Africa

Sport and Travel: Abyssinia and British East Africa by Lord Hindlip

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groups in question successively through the mill of enquiry. Thus we have dress of the Semang followed by dress of the Sakai and dress of the Jakun, and so throughout. Every available authority has been consulted and is quoted or the reference given, so that, though one is confident that very little can have escaped the compiler's observant eye, the feeling that a good deal of pruning might with advantage have been done is no less strong. The system has, however, the merit of enabling any one consulting the book to find the subject he is in search of at once, together with the data for comparison with other tribes.

It would be impossible, within the limits of a short notice, to do justice to the unwearying industry of the two authors, or to give any adequate idea of the immense amount of material here got together. In addition to that of the body of the book, numerous appendices deal with folk-songs, magic, charms, etc., and occupy nearly a hundred pages of the first volume, while a large amount of space is allotted to a consideration of the comb, sumpitan, and quiver decoration, and Vaughan-Stevens' theories concerning the patterns, with regard to many of which, it may be remarked, Mr. Skeat remains unconvinced. Mr. Blagden's labours on the languages of the peninsula occupy a large part of the second volume, and the "Comparative Vocabulary of Aboriginal Dialects" which follows extends to over 260 pages. This is really a provisional dictionary of these tongues, and must have necessitated enormous labour and research. Mr. Blagden's work has led him to the conclusion that there is a typical Semang group of dialects, best represented by the language of the aborigines of Central Kedah, and that this contrasts strongly with a typical Sakai group, of which the best examples are the languages in South Perak and the adjoining parts of Pehang. There is, however, no such good Jakun type. He considers that the Semang and Sakai tongues show two distinct strains of the Mon-Annam element, the one ancient and remote, the other much more recent. The question of the relation between race and language is nevertheless a very complex problem which needs more detailed investigation before any certain conclusion can be arrived at. The hypothesis of a Mon-Kher occupation of the Peninsula is strongly supported by linguistic evidence, and it is suggested by Mr. Blagden that this may have begun about the fifth century A.D., or perhaps earlier.

Enough has been said to show that the book is not only a monument of careful research, but a necessity for every student of the races of the peninsula. In his preface Mr. Skeat claims to have set forth in his two volumes the whole substance of what has been written on these people by dozens of explorers and observers, often in inaccessible or obsolete books and periodicals, and his claim may readily be admitted, with the addition that the facts are marshalled and presented by one who is himself one of the best authorities on the country. The book is furnished with a very large number of photographs of natives, but these form the least satisfactory part of it. Many of them are groups, which are often taken at too great a distance to be of any use in showing the type. Satisfactory heads of good size, taken full-face and profile, are conspicuous by their absence.

F. H. H. G.

AFRICA.

ABYSSINIA AND BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

'Sport and Travel: Abyssinia and British East Africa.' By Lord Hindlip. *With 72 Illustrations and 2 Maps.* London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1906.

In this volume Lord Hindlip records his impressions of a visit to Abyssinia in 1902, and of two journeys in British East Africa, the first in 1903, the second in 1905. On the last occasion the traveller was accompanied by Lady Hindlip, and many of the

photographs which illustrate the volume were taken by her. The chief object of the author in all three expeditions was sport, and his journeys added little to geographical knowledge. Lord Hindlip was, however, in unfamiliar if not unknown regions, and his descriptions of the country he passed through are vivid and valuable. He has also notes and comments on the various tribes encountered, which here and there will help the ethnologist to fill up gaps in his notebooks. Though we cannot recommend Lord Hindlip as a trustworthy guide to Abyssinian history, his criticism on the neglect of the British Government to settle the frontier between British East Africa and Abyssinia is perfectly sound, as are also his comments on Menelek's methods of extending his authority in that region. It is also lamentable that Lord Hindlip's offer, in 1902, to the Government to take a qualified surveyor with him to map any part of British East Africa they desired, provided it was a good shooting country, met with so lukewarm a response that the project was abandoned. The description given of the way in which the white settlers are transforming the Kikuyu highlands is most interesting; one sees a colony in the making. The book, though mainly of interest to the sportsman—and we are not here concerned with the ethics of big-game shooting—is of real value to all interested in the development of European colonization in East Africa. There are two excellent sketch-maps by Mr. J. W. Addison, on the scale of 45 miles to an inch.

F. R. C.

THE IVORY COAST.

'Dix ans à la Côte d'Ivoire.' By F.-J. Clozel, Governor of the Ivory Coast. *Maps and Illustrations*. Paris: Augustus Challamel. 1906.

Since Captain Binger's remarkable journey from the Niger to the Gulf of Guinea by Kong in 1887-1889, French officials, military and civilian, have devoted much time and energy to the exploration of the hinterland of the Ivory Coast. Among the most active of these explorers has been M. Clozel, the present governor of the colony, whose book we have before us. 'Dix ans à la Côte d'Ivoire' is not an exhaustive monograph of the colony, some western districts being undescribed, while others, namely Baule, Kong, and Bonduku are considered in detail, the chapter on Baule being contributed by M. Th. Tellier. Some fifty pages are given up to a reprint of articles on journeys in the eastern and northern regions undertaken by the author between 1896 and 1905, and there is a general review of the progress made by the colony during that period. There are six appendices, the first giving in twenty pages a highly interesting and valuable summary of the history of the colony; the second, by M. Delafosse, dealing with the ethnography of Baule; the third recording the result of three and a half years' astronomical observations; and the remainder being devoted to an account of the public works, railways, canals, etc., undertaken by the French. Though we fail to get such a comprehensive survey of the country as would be gained by a more scientific treatment of the subject, M. Clozel's method results in eminently readable and informative chapters. While the physical geography receives fairly adequate attention, more interest is displayed in detailing the economic resources of the country and in describing its inhabitants and their history. On this last point there is evidence of considerable research, nor will the reader fail to be struck with the sympathetic attitude displayed by the French officials towards the races under their control. That is one of the reasons of their success in developing their equatorial possessions in Africa. The chief impression left by a perusal of the book is that the prosperity of the country depends on its jungle products, and on the possibility of profitable agriculture and stock-raising in the open lands north of about 8° N. The rivers being unnavigable save by canoe, the wisdom of a policy of railway-building is apparent. The book contains a number of maps and diagrams, besides numerous small-sized illustrations.