Review

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who are ready to be their own mechanics and to risk the possibility of difficulties in the way of obtaining fuel might be tempted by it to follow these travellers. The pass from Cattaro into Montenegro is in itself a heavy task for a car, but this one appears to have shown its capacities unflinching.

'Brown's North Sea, Baltic, and Mediterranean Distance Tables.' (Glasgow : Brown. 1909. Pp. iii., 70. *Maps*. 2s. 6d.) These tables, from which, either directly or by calculation, it is possible to find 125,000 distances between ports, should prove very useful to yachtsmen and seamen generally, whilst the book serves also as a simple gazetteer to the ports of the seas named in the title, together with British ports.

'Castles and Chateaux of Old Burgundy.' By Francis Miltoun. (London : Pitman. 1909. Pp. ix., 333. *Maps and Illustrations*. 7s. 6d.) The text is of both descriptive and historical value, and would make a good companion for the leisurely traveller in the Burgundian departments. The illustrations seem alternately to lack and to exaggerate the appropriate atmosphere, and their broad treatment is unsuited to the delicacy of the architectural subjects.

ASIA.

'Kairo-Bagdad-Konstantinople.' By E. von Hoffmeister. (Leipzig : Teubner. 1910. Pp. x., 262. *Map and Illustrations*. 8 marks.) After a short excursion in the Fayum, the author's route led him through Palestine to Damascus, across the Syrian desert, and from Bagdad roughly along the line of the Bagdad railway. The book contains a large number of good photographs, and, apart from the interest of its matter, will be found valuable on account of the careful marginal annotation of the time occupied by the various stages of the journey.

'L'Inde Britannique.' By J. Chailley. (Paris : Colin. 1910. Pp. 520. *Maps*. 10 francs.) Following up his studies in French and other colonial administration in the East, which have already resulted in works on Indo-China and Java, the author now issues this comprehensive work on India. The population and social conditions receive detailed treatment, and the various methods of administration in the territories directly administered and feudatory are analyzed.

'The Price of Blood.' By Vladimir Semenov. (London : Murray. 1910. Pp. xii., 228. 5s.) This is a peculiar book, written evidently under the stress of great emotion by a naval officer who served Russia in the war against Japan. He was wounded, and the description of his sufferings may prove unpalatable to many readers. But the story is at least vivid and intimate.

AFRICA.

ACROSS THE CENTRAL SAHARA.

'Across the Sahara from Tripoli to Bornu.' By Hanns Vischer, M.A., F.R.G.S., Political Service, Northern Nigeria. *Illustrations and Map*. London : Edward Arnold. 1910. 12s. 6d. net.

Mr. Hanns Vischer's account of his journey across the Sahara in 1906 is written with a light touch and a determined optimism. Adventures and misadventures are recounted with unflinching good-humour. At the same time the glories and the terrors of the desert are vividly portrayed. Apart from its personal interest there is much in this volume to arrest the attention of the student. Mr. Vischer followed the "classic" route from Tripoli to Bornu, *via* Murzuk and Bilma. Cumbered as he was with women and children, the exploration of unknown regions was out of the question. But in a country liable to considerable physical changes in a

comparatively short time, and which is only traversed by a European about once in twenty years, an observant man will note much worthy of record. So it was in this case. Mr. Vischer has seen the Roman ruins in the Tripolitaine, and has studied the works of Barth, Nachtigal, and others. Contrasting the aspect of the country as he saw it with the evidence of former fertility he finds that, even since Barth's time (1850-55), the desert has almost everywhere encroached on the oases and other cultivable land. This is the case equally in places, *e.g.* Misda, north of the Hamada as in Fezzan and Bilma. The desert is conquering not because climatic conditions have greatly changed in the last sixty years, but because the sedentary population have increasingly given up the struggle against Nature, on the one hand, and against Turkish extortion and predatory Tuareg and Tibbu on the other. The good work which even four years ago Mr. Vischer saw exiled Young Turks accomplishing at Murzuk gives ground to hope that they will now attempt to win back the land which the desert should never have been allowed to conquer. Further south, at Bilma, the French may be trusted to do their best to restore prosperity to the oases. Whether it is possible to recreate the strip of fertile land which, centuries ago, stretched from Bornu to Bilma is, however, a matter of great doubt.

The book contains many passages on the economic crises caused by the closing of caravan routes to the traffic in slaves. Murzuk, it appears, has suffered severely. Since Mr. Vischer wrote, the French have obtained possession of Wadai, the southern end of the one remaining trans-Saharan route for the unrestricted conveyance of slaves. With a firmer grip by the British on Darfur and by the Young Turks on Barca, the Saharan slave trade should soon be a thing of the past. As the legitimate trade of the west and central Sudan is now inevitably trending south, necessity may compel the Saharan peoples either to become more diligent agriculturists and cattle and camel rearers, or to perish. Mr. Vischer thinks the Tuareg, in whom he finds scarcely any good thing, destined to disappear. His ethnological notes, especially those on the Tibbu—of whom he met many at Murzuk and elsewhere—are of considerable value. With the gay and music-loving Fezzani he was greatly pleased. In much the same way that the fellaheen represent the ancient Egyptians, the Fezzani may represent a primitive Saharan race. Mr. Vischer was also fortunate to discover stone implements of neolithic and palæolithic age: upon their importance in the study of anthropology we cannot here enlarge.

Besides a map of the route, there are numerous excellent illustrations to this volume, which is of added interest as, so far as the present writer is aware, the first account in English of a trans-Saharan journey since the appearance of Barth's 'Travels.'

F. R. C.

TRIBES OF NORTH GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

'Die Völkerstämme im Norden Deutsch Ost Afrikas.' By Oberleutnant Max Weiss. Berlin: Carl Marschner. 1910. 15 marks (*bound*, 16.50).

Prof. Hans Meyer, who writes a short review of this remarkable book in the *Täglichen Rundschau* of last January, rightly appreciates its importance to the ethnologist, though he shows an anxiety (which need not at present concern the Royal Geographical Society, whose Fellows are mostly restricted to the male sex), that it shall not come under the eyes of the "junge Mädchen." He is also worried about the gender of the river Kagera: should it be masculine or feminine in German? Happily, our very sensible English language has practically abolished these neolithic fancies of artificial gender in its modern form, and we can proceed to the