WILEY

Review: Hydrography of Northern Germany

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Feb., 1903), pp. 169-170

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1775404>

Accessed: 22-06-2016 19:00 UTC

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is very noxious, and even fatal to animals, and therefore the camels of the Doi, the region two days' journey from the Shebeli into the interior, are driven in the dry season to the Sahel, the coastal zone. The people of the Sahel often purchase camels from the Doi district, for they are fine, strong, and fat. These animals, when they see rain in the interior, frequently make off in that direction, swimming the Shebeli, though usually shy of water, to browse on the young shoots of the acacias and mimosas so abundant in the Doi.

The country towards the Jub is occupied by the Rahanwin, a tribe of mixed origin. The Dabarre, now forming a section of the Rahanwin, and settled between Dechie and Matagoi, claim to be of purer Somali blood, and certainly the coarser type with tufted hair, which among the Rahanwin indicates an intermixture with Swaheli or other imported slaves, is not seen among them. The Jidu, dwelling between Kinnia and Matagoi, claim an Arab descent, pointing out the resemblance in sound between Jidu and Jeddah. Their language certainly differs both from the Somali and Rahanwin. They are a pastoral people, and did not cultivate the soil at all before the murrain in 1888 or 1889, which nearly annihilated their herds. Formerly they were the richest Somali in the country, and now their fine cattle find a ready sale at Brava, and their butter (ghee) is exported to Zanzibar. The Rahanwin and Dabarre cultivate white dhurra principally, and also white Turkish wheat and a little cotton. The last crop is fast disappearing in consequence of the introduction of manufactured cloth from the coast. Dhurra is sown about *neirus*, the Somali New Year's Day, which always occurs in the middle of August, for the Somali year is ten days longer than that of the Mohammedan calendar (354 or 355 days), and the roots, if left in the ground, produce a second crop. When the roots are grubbed up, a second sowing is made in the *guh*, the season before the south-west monsoon sets in. The ears are cut off and stored in silos, where they keep good for years. Field work is performed by slaves, for Somalis are averse to agricultural labour. Many of the farming settlements are supplied with drinking-water by reservoirs (*nar*), generally constructed by damming up a natural hollow. Artificial irrigation is practised only in the neighbourhood of the Shebeli.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

HYDROGRAPHY OF NORTHERN GERMANY.

'Weser und Ems, ihre Stromgebiete und ihre wichtigsten Nebenflüsse.' Im Auftrage des preussischen Wasser-Ausschusses herausgegeben von H. Keller. 5 vols. and Atlas. 1901. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen).

THE series of exhaustive memoirs prepared by the Hydrographical Committee of the Prussian Government has been completed by the publication of that on the Weser and Ems. The other members of this series (Oder, 1896; Elbe, 1898; Memel, Pregel, and Vistula, 1899) have been noticed in the *Journal*, and the new volumes present few novel features. We must, however, remark on the astonishing rapidity with which the enormous labour involved in their compilation has been executed, and congratulate the committee on an achievement of great value to geographical science, as well as to engineering. The arrangement of the present work, as in the others, is regional, each river-basin being treated as a separate unit. Although the area dealt with is small, only 9 per cent. of the German empire lying within the basins of the Weser and Ems, the material for its investigation is more abundant than in the case of the other rivers, and hence it has been possible to go into greater detail. Vol. i. gives a general description of the

region; a hundred pages are devoted to its climate, and ninety to its geology, while a second section deals with the rights and privileges of its inhabitants with regard to the rivers and their waters. Vol. ii. describes the sources and tributary streams (excluding the Aller). Vol. iii. gives full details of the hydrography of the Weser from Münden to Geestemünde, and vol. iv. deals with the Aller and the Ems. Vol. v. consists wholly of statistics. In the atlas, which contains thirty-four sheets, are general maps (orographical, meteorological, and geological) on a scale of 1:1,000,000, large-scale maps of the river courses (1:50,000 and 1:100,000), and longitudinal and transverse sections.

THE VOSGES.

'Les Hautes-Chaumes des Vosges. Étude de Géographie et d'Économie historiques.'

Par Pierre Boyé. Paris: Berger-Levrault & Co. 1903.

The upper portions of the Vosges are, as is well known, occupied by pasturages to which the herdsmen of the neighbouring districts annually take their cattle during the summer months, the time which is not actually spent in tending them being devoted to the making of the cheeses for which the district is famous. Dr. Boyé's volume presents an interesting study of these pasturages from a historical and geographical point of view, his conclusions being based on an exhaustive study of the literature and historical documents relating to the region. At the outset he deals with the derivation of the word *chaume*, which is now rarely met with outside the Vosges, though originally it had a more extended meaning, and does not seem to have been used with reference to this district until the fifteenth century. He rejects the idea that the word has any connection with the *Calvi Montes* of historians, and derives it instead from the Low Latin *calma*, which signified "waste ground." In the country itself the word has been employed with varying significations; while on the German side, other terms, such as *Firsten* and *Wasen*, were employed instead, the former alluding especially to the elevated nature of the pasturages, while the latter is the equivalent of *gazon*, "turf." From the point of view of physical geography, the most interesting section is that which discusses the question whether the higher parts of the Vosges have always been bare, or whether the pasturages have been due to the action of man. Dr. Boyé concludes, on somewhat doubtful grounds, perhaps, that the latter is the case, his chief arguments being the spread of the trees over the upper grounds during times of war, when the pasturages were not used, and the assertion which has been made by experts, that similar mountain pastures can only be developed where wood has once been. In subsequent chapters he traces the history of the pasturages from their first-known mention in A.D. 948, entering into details respecting the long-standing questions of proprietorship, and describing the varying fortunes of the industry connected with them. An interesting chapter also traces the gradual exploration of the "chaumes," in which botanists like Tabernaemontanus and Bauhin took a leading part, and draws attention to the feelings of awe inspired by these upper regions, as by those of most mountain ranges in early days.

ASIA.

BORNEO.

'The Home Life of Borneo Head-hunters, its Festivals and Folk-lore.' By W. H. Furness, 3rd M.D. Philadelphia: Lippincott Coy. 1902. 8vo, pp. 197, 88 pls. Price 30s.

It is not every traveller who can enter so sympathetically into the life of the people he visits as does Dr. W. H. Furness, who, in his recently published book on 'The Home Life of Borneo Head-hunters, its Festivals and Folk-lore,' has proved