WILEY

Review: The Tibetan Borderlands of China

Author(s): W. R. Carles

Review by: W. R. Carles

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (Oct., 1914), pp. 399-400

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1778598>

Accessed: 22-06-2016 21:31 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Wiley, The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to The Geographical Journal

mighty rock walls, the high pastures, the deserts—and then the mountains are not mere protuberances, but individual things, each with its own character, clearly distinguished one from another. It is only with points of the compass that he is a little vague—by omission, not inaccuracy, the common fault of travellers. The charm of Kulu, the impressive desolation of Lahoul, these are the main impressions a reader carries away from this book. He also derives a lively impression of the people; and the final chapter, contributed by Mrs. Bruce, with its appreciation of the flowers, the local life, the smaller beauties of every day, rounds off the book with a pleasing feminine note. Captain Todd's chapter, entitled "Some History and Folk-lore," is also a welcome addition to a useful and delightful volume, which is illustrated by good and truly illustrative photographs.

M. C.

THE TIBETAN BORDERLANDS OF CHINA.

'Au Yunnan et dans le Massif du Kin-ho.' By Dr. A. F. Legendre. Paris. Plon, Nourrit & Cie. 1913.

Dr. Legendre had already made himself well known by his explorations in West Szechuen, and more especially by his travels in the Lolo country when, in 1910, he received instructions from his Government to proceed again to Western China. His mission was directed to carry out studies both geographical and commercial, including observations on Chinese sericulture, and also to obtain documents and copies of inscriptions to throw light on the interesting peoples who have hitherto either wholly or in part resisted the influences of Chinese civilization. Accompanied by Captain Noiret and Lieut. Dessirier, he left Yunnan Fu in November, 1910, and took a north-west route to the spot where the Tso-ling river joins the Yangtse south of lat. 28°. From there he made a series of excursions east and west across country left blank in Captain Ryder's map (*Royal Geographical Journal*, February, 1913) and unvisited by Leclerc.* The journeys included a visit to the salt works at Pri-yen-ching. His description of the colossal corruption, official and other, under which the old system was worked is especially interesting from the light thrown upon the difficulties which face the reforms now taking place in the collection of the salt revenue.

After crossing the Yangtse, Dr. Legendre struck north to the valley of the Ngan-ning river and made several attempts to enter the Lolo country, most of which were foiled by Chinese officials, who sent troops to stop his way. An excursion to Chengtu was followed by detailed exploration of the country south of a line drawn from Ya-chou to Tachien-lu to the 28th parallel. There Lieut. Dessirier separately undertook the survey of the great bend made by the Yalung, first discovered by Dr. Logan Jack. The precipitous nature of the country made his task the more difficult and nearly cost him his life, which he probably owes to the devotion of his friend, who found him after he had been three days unconscious.

This part of China excited in Legendre, as in all other Europeans who have touched it, the deepest admiration for its beauties. The wealth of vegetation, park-like valleys, beautifully plumaged birds, and glorious views of snow-clad ranges as seen from heights of from 10,000 to 15,000 feet, are described with an

* Details as to various journeys of Dr. Legendre and his companions were given in the *Journal*, vols. 39, pp. 72, 280; 41, p. 384.

enthusiasm which almost drives out of sight the toils endured in mounting pass after pass in traverses at right angles to the line of the mountains.

Unfortunately the journey ended at the time when Sechuen was in the throes of the revolution against Manchu Government, and an attack made upon the expedition, when its dangers seemed all at an end, occasioned the loss of almost all the collections, notes and surveys. The travellers themselves were badly wounded, and one of the party, an Annamese boy, to whom the volume is dedicated, was killed. It is presumably owing to these losses that the map descriptive of the country is very imperfect, and makes it extremely difficult to recognize the routes followed. The "Kinho" is not marked as such on the map, but is presumably the Yalung river.

The volume is very brightly written and contains a great number of reflections on Chinese characteristics. It is somewhat of a surprise to find how unfavourably Chinese colonists are compared with the natives of the region, whose buildings, surroundings, and farming aptitude stand out in great contrast to the ruin wrought in the forests by the petty agriculture of the Chinese. Interesting remarks on the native tribes and their customs are scattered throughout the book and thrown into some shape in the Appendix.

W. R. CARLES.

'A Pepys of Mogul India.' Translated by William Irvine. (London: John Murray. 1913. Pp. x., 310. 10s. 6d. net.) This is an abridgment of Niccolo Manucci's famous 'Storia do Mogor,' of which an English version was published in 1907. The work of condensing the four bulky volumes of the original edition has been admirably done by Miss M. L. Irvine, who has produced a popular work, while retaining the distinctive features of Manucci's lengthy autobiography. The selections are made with discrimination and a due sense of proportion, while the continuity of the narrative of Manucci's adventurous life is not sacrificed. What has been omitted is that which appeals only to the scholar and the historian, such as the history of the interminable disputes between the Capuchins and Jesuits. In short, the editor of this abridgment has succeeded in giving a true and vivid picture of the famous adventurer and his amazing career.

'Pennell of the Afghan Frontier.' By Alice M. Pennell. (London: Service & Co. 1914. Pp. xvi., 464. *Maps and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d. net.) This volume forms an appropriate and complementary work to Dr. Pennell's 'Among the Wild Tribes of the Afghan Frontier,' published by the doctor a few years ago. The present book, though full of interesting incidents regarding the frontier tribesmen, partakes more of the nature of a biographical sketch of the author, and shows strikingly how his example and enthusiasm as a medical missionary inspired both his English friends and his native converts, pupils, and followers. He was only twenty years on the frontier, and died at the early age of forty-four. As Lord Roberts remarks, Pennell's fame as a physician and surgeon spread far and wide, and during one year in the Bannu hospital 34,000 cases were dealt with, and 1655 of these were admitted to the wards. In the same year 3000 operations were performed by four qualified medical men (two British and two Indian) and one qualified medical woman, figures which give some striking idea of the magnitude and importance of the work of the organization and execution of which Dr. Pennell was responsible. The profits of the present work, which has been written by Miss Pennell, as well as those of 'Among the Wild Tribes of the Afghan Frontier,' will be devoted to the Afghan Medical Mission.