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Review: A Bornean People

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approach to India from the west, while, amid various projected railways discussed, the scheme of a trans-Arabian railway line with the view of directly connecting Egypt with Quetta is not referred to, though it has an important bearing on the vexed question of the prolongation of the Baghdad railway to the Persian gulf which is now exciting so much discussion in the press. The book has an introductory note by Lieut.-General Sir Reginald C. Hart, K.C.B., and is published with the official sanction of the Army Council.

A BORNEAN PEOPLE.

'Seventeen Years among the Sea Dyaks of Borneo: A Record of Intimate Association with the Natives of the Bornean Jungles.' By Edwin H. Gomes; and an Introduction by the Rev. John Perham. *With 40 Illustrations and a Map.* London: Seeley & Co., 1911. 16s. net.

The Sea Dyaks, or Iban as ethnologists now prefer to term them, are such an interesting people, and have played such an important part in the recent history of Sarawak, that it is only fitting they should have a book to themselves, and few are more competent to write upon them than a missionary who has spent the best years of his life in trying to improve their condition. Mr. Gomes has an intimate knowledge of the manner of life, customs, and beliefs of these people, but his evident liking for and sympathy with them does not blind him to the defects of their character or to their unprogressive mode of life; indeed, he does not draw a very hopeful picture of their future, unless they amend their ways. He barely alludes to the other peoples of Sarawak, for, despite his title, it is only of the Sea Dyaks of Sarawak that he deals, and of these he is mainly concerned with certain groups, though what he says applies to the Sea Dyaks as a whole. While not a monograph in the strict sense of the term, the book gives a description of the people, which is quite adequate for all classes of readers except ethnological experts, and even these will find many new facts to interest them and valuable accounts of the practices of the *manong*, or witch-doctor, of feasts, and various ceremonies and customs. It is a great convenience to have a particular tribe described so fully as the reader can gain a reliable impression of a barbaric jungle folk who have been but very slightly influenced from outside. It is also of importance to trace the beginning of the effects of the white man's civilization and religion. There is appended a convenient glossary of Dyak words and phrases which occur in the body of the book. Special praise must be given to the number and excellence of the photographs, many of which were taken by Dr. C. Hose; they really do illustrate the text.

A. C. H.

'Guide to Palestine and Syria.' (5th edit.) (London: Macmillan. 1910. Pp. xxxi., 164. *Maps.* 5s.) This guide, which is arranged on the ordinary lines according to routes, has undergone thorough revision. Its convenient size and particularly clear printing are commendable.

'An Illustrated Guide to the Federated Malay States.' Edited by C. W. Harrison. (London: Malay States Development Agency. *N.d.* Pp. 333. *Map and Illustrations.* 2s. 6d.) This is a practical and readable volume, affording clear directions to the traveller, whether by rail, motor-car, or ghari, over all parts of the Malay States which have been opened up by railway and the fine system of roads. Exhaustive tables are given of distances, weights and measures, and alternative methods of using shorter or longer periods at the disposal of visitors; and the illustrations assist in making clear the peculiar attractions of

the country. This little book deserves to make known the advantage of a *détour* through Malaya by tourists making for the Far East.

'Highways and Homes of Japan.' By Lady Lawson. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1910. Pp. 352. *Illustrations*. 12s. 6d.) There have lately appeared many books on Japan (the flyleaf of the present volume alone refers to six of them), and not a few have been written without pretence to authority and on the strength of merely casual visits. Lady Lawson's book stands on the basis of more ample knowledge, and is itself more ample than these, for the pages are fairly closely printed and reveal an intimate acquaintance with the Japanese character, among both the upper and the lower classes, in town and country. It is written in a sympathetic spirit, and is free of the patronizing tone of those authors who have appeared to regard the Japanese rather as primitive savages than as they are. It is beautifully illustrated, and though in the bulk it deals with social topics, from government and religion to customs and superstitions, the picturesque scenic setting of the life of the people is adequately described.

'From Japan to Jerusalem.' By Bishop Ingham. (London: Church Missionary Society. 1911. Pp. viii., 232. *Illustrations*. 2s. 6d.) This is the record of a remarkable journey by the home secretary of the Church Missionary Society. He recently travelled by Siberia to Japan, and there, in China, in India and Ceylon, in Palestine and Egypt, visited mission stations, conducted services, and gave addresses in such number that the journey must have been no less strenuous than enjoyable. The book therefore provides what must be an unique record of the work of Christian missions in the East and of the conditions in which that work is carried on; its magnitude and organization cannot but excite the wonder of the reader.

'Le Tonkin de 1872 à 1886.' By Jean Dupuis. (Paris: Challamel, 1910. Pp. 579.) M. Dupuis is already known for his journey along the Red river and as a writer of several works on Tonkin. They are mainly on commercial and political topics, and the present volume is no exception, being a detailed political history of the colony during the fifteen years indicated in the title. He has, moreover, been a protagonist in somewhat acute personal disagreements which make up no inconsiderable part of that history, and the personal element bulks largely in the narrative. Copious quotation is made from original documents.

AFRICA.

SOUTH AFRICAN RACES.

'The Yellow and Dark-Skinned People of Africa South of the Zambesi.' By Dr. G. McCall Theal. Pp. xvi. and 397. 14 *Illustrations*. Swan, Sonnenschein: 1910. 10s. 6d.

As our readers are aware, it is not always easy to grasp the general arrangement of the numerous works that Dr. Theal has devoted to the subject of South Africa in its historical and ethnographic aspects. Clearness will therefore be consulted by pointing out that the eight preceding volumes, as duly noticed in recent numbers of the *Journal*, were mainly historic; three being occupied with the Portuguese and Dutch settlements (1506-1700), and five to the general history of the whole region since the arrival of the English (1795-1872). But so much space was occupied with what may be briefly called the white element, that the aborigines could be dealt with only in a fragmentary way, or not at all. Hence the strictly ethnographic features of the subject had to be reserved for special treatment, and to this is now devoted the present volume. In it are brought together the previously scattered materials illustrating the ethnical