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Review: Manchuria

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Palace. The Japanese soldier comes in for praise on account of his smartness and effectiveness, though the horses of the cavalry are condemned as being undersized. The tour was brought to a close by a visit to the Dutch East Indies, where the prince was astonished to find Europeans wearing the native clothing. He characterizes Batavia as essentially Dutch, and compares the freedom of native princes under British rule in India with the petty tyranny to which the princes in Netherlands India are subjected. Throughout the book the author proves himself to be a man of clear perception, and possessed of much literary skill.

MANCHURIA.

'Puteshestviye po Manchurii.' E. E. Anert. St. Petersburg: Press of the Academy of Sciences. 1904.

In this volume, a memoir of the Russian Geographical Society, M. Anert describes journeys he made in Manchuria during the years 1896-98, chiefly to investigate the geology of the country. Entering Manchuria from the north-east, and making many excursions in various directions from Kirin, he and his companions, MM. Volkof, Moreyef, and Revakin, traversed a great part of the country and collected a large amount of information, though, as he admits, there is still much to be learned of the geology. The chief orographical features beginning from the Mongolo-Manchurian plain on the west, 650 feet above sea-level, are the second range west of Kirin, rising to 1950 feet; the basin of Bulahai and San-ho-tung, to the south-west of which lies the first range west of Kirin, and the basin of the Mai-ho; then the Manchurian highlands, rising to 3300 feet with Paik-tu-shan (White Mountain, 8000 feet); the Korean range (1600-2200 feet); and the slope to the sea of Japan. The configuration is largely due to faulting. Gneiss, archæan schists, and other crystalline rocks predominate, and outflows of volcanic rocks are especially extensive round Paik-tu-shan. The volume is accompanied by a general map showing the places of occurrence of useful minerals, and a geological map of the parts investigated.

AFRICA.

WEST AFRICA.

'The Rise of British West Africa.' By Claude George. Houlston & Sons. 1903.

This volume deals with the early history of Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Lagos, the Gold Coast, etc. In the course of his narrative, the author describes the many trials and failures encountered in the attempt to establish a free settlement for negroes and people of colour on the Grain Coast of Africa. The history of Sierra Leone dates from the year 1787, and in 1790 the Sierra Leone Company was formed to manage and govern the colony. The company purposed establishing trade between Great Britain and the ports of the West Coast of Africa, but its financial losses, combined with the aggressive attitude of the native chiefs, and the growing importance and responsibilities of the colony proved insuperable, and in 1807, when it petitioned for dissolution, its demand was granted. The company's work was carried on by the African Institution, under whose régime the colony made rapid progress, in spite of difficulties with native tribes. The author goes on to describe the indecisive campaign in Ashanti, which ended in the death of Sir Charles Macarthy, the governor of Sierra Leone, at Ensikuma. For two years British prestige suffered, until Lieut.-Colonel Pordon, acting without orders, dealt the Ashantis a decisive blow. About this time the Sherbro expedition was undertaken, which proved more successful than the previous one.

Sir Neil Campbell succeeded Sir Charles Turner (who had succumbed to fever