French words in the present-day Cape Dutch, as also the reason for few Portuguese words remaining in the language, are also dealt with.

The book should be most useful to anyone going to live in South Africa.

P. W. NORTH.

Mosquito or Man? By the late SIR RUBERT BOYCE, F.R.S. (Third edition.) (London: Murray. 1913.)

THE Panama Canal, which is to be opened for traffic very shortly, is a permanent monument commemorating the discovery of the insect transmission of human disease. The late Sir Rubert Boyce's well-known book describes in detail the discoveries of the nature of mosquitoes and biting flies, and the dangers of these insects to the community. Malaria, yellow fever, dengue, are things of the past, when we will, because their modes of transmission from one person to another through the medium of mosquitoes or gnats are now known intimately; we know, besides, and this is still more important, how to be rid of these pests and of the diseases they carry. Hence the Panama Canal.

Sir Rubert Boyce was one of the first to realise that if any appeal in matters of sanitation is to be made successfully, it must be made to the general public. It is of little use to appeal to the sanitarians alone, or even to the medical profession alone. If a new discovery is to be applied practically, the influence of "the man in the street" must be sought. That is essential. But we must not seek his influence only, but his keenness, his interest, and above all, his understanding. "*Mosquito or Man?*" sets out all that is known about the insect transmission of disease very clearly and lucidly so that a child may read and learn.

The discoveries which have led to the prevention of insect-borne disease read like romances—the hardships of the individual workers, the difficulties they overcame, the way in which they were persecuted by unbelievers, their treatment even by members of their own profession—are like the stories of the early novelists. But this book gives us the results they obtained, the stories of the conversion of white men's graves into white men's homes, as well as important examples of work done and the discoveries applied and practised. Sir Rubert has the power of convincing his readers. He is an able historian of the work of others.

But Panama does not stand alone as a monument to Tropical Disease Research. The Suez Canal shares the glory. There are also the stories of West Africa, the West Indies, Algeria, the Italian Campagna, the Federated Malay States, Rio, Havana, New Orleans, and many other fever-stricken places which have been made whole. And now, as

a result, people at home seem to be waking up to the fact that there are diseases here at the heart of our Empire which also require prevention as much as those of our Colonies and Dependencies. We have even begun to take measures against mosquitoes in London, and the authorities are starting work in Epping Forest. This is the direct effect of popular teaching such as is contained in Sir Rubert Boyce's book, and the old method of burying scientific knowledge in the musty bookshelves of scientific societies is being replaced by the new one of bringing new discoveries to public light. Sir Rubert Boyce's name will go down to posterity as one of those who undertook the task of herald. The book is excellently turned out by Mr. Murray. HALFORD ROSS.

La Région du Haut Tell en Tunisie. Ch. Monchicourt.
(Paris: Armand Colin. 1913.)

UNDER this brief title Mons. Monchicourt has given a most thorough and exhaustive account of a portion of Tunisia which remained unknown, unexplored, and inaccessible until the construction of the railway to Kef. The district lies in the very heart of Tunisia, where the more level Steppe or Coast Belt merges into the hill regions of the interior, and therefore possesses the double interest of highland and lowland. Incidentally we learn that part of this district has from time immemorial been known as Friguia; from Friguia came Phœnician and Arabic Ifrika, our Africa.

Taken as a whole the region is mountainous, well watered and fertile. It is divisible into a northern and southern part. In the northern part the Syrian variety of fir grows abundantly, making the country somewhat uniform, but the southern section exhibits endless variety of scenery, mountain (*jebel*) and forest; plain and terraced cultivation (*sra*) alternate in delightful succession, and much of it is agricultural land.

The second half of the book treats of the people who inhabit this region, and discusses in most thorough fashion from every point of view the influence which the physical features of the country have exerted on the inhabitants. The varying fortunes of the tribesmen and their towns, the shifting of clans owing to partial or complete drought; the trading and commercial dealings, the later work of European administrators and colonists, and more especially what France has accomplished since 1881 in the way of mines, railways and new centres of trade, all these and much else pass before the reader, supplying him with an inexhaustible store of information which no one interested in North Africa should fail to notice.