Review

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WEST AFRICAN COAST-LANDS.

'A Travers la Mauritanie Occidentale (de Saint-Louis à Port-Etienne).' By A. Gruvel and R. Chudeau. Vol. 1, Partie Générale et Économique. 80 *Illustrations* and 2 *Maps*. 281 pp. Paris: 1909.

A somewhat detailed account of the contents of this work was supplied before its publication by the authors to *La Géographie* for July, 1909, and noticed at some length in the *Journal* for October, 1909. Here it will suffice to complete that notice by a brief reference to some of the more important points that have come to light since the summary of the first volume appeared; the second, which is occupied with the scientific part, still awaits publication, but is promised for an early date.

The book itself may be regarded as a crushing reply to those pessimists who denounced the establishment in 1906 of the French station of Port-Etienne near Cape Blanco as a rash speculation, which could never yield any adequate returns for the time and treasure wasted on its foundation. Hence the main object of the mission was to show that there were abundant resources along the surveyed seaboard to warrant the undertaking and enable the new station to become a flourishing commercial centre. After the long historic survey already referred to, the route is described in great detail, and here a vivid account is given of the surrounding "Moorish populations," as the French call with little discrimination all the Arabo-Berber peoples of "Mauritania," that is, the Saharan coastlands between Morocco and Senegambia.

That the whole region formerly enjoyed a much more favourable climate than at present, and was fairly well inhabited throughout the Stone Ages, results from the discovery of numerous flint and other worked objects at various points along the route. From primitive workshops like those of Gaul and Britain were collected numerous specimens of spear or arrow-heads, scrapers, cutters, hatchets, and at pp. 153-4, students of early man will be delighted to find over 120 of such objects clearly photographed. Again we are told that in the Cape Blanco district large numbers of similar implements may be found intermingled with chipped (palæolithic) or polished (neolithic) stone objects often fashioned with much skill and taste. We seem to have here a further proof that the Afro-European peoples ranged from Africa northwards into Europe, as I have always maintained, and not from Europe southwards, as is held by perhaps the majority of our leading anthropologists.

The explorers find that the Mauritanian coastlands traversed by them present, from the economic standpoint, only three natural products capable of being exploited either now or in the near future. These are stock-breeding, salt, and fishing, this last the most important of all. A. H. K.

SOUTH AFRICA.

'History of South Africa since September, 1795.' By G. McCall Theal, LL.D. In 5 volumes. *With Maps and Charts*. London: Swan, Sonnenschein: 1908. 7s. 6d. each volume.

Complete or partial editions of Dr. Theal's 'South Africa' appear so frequently that it becomes somewhat difficult to grasp the general scheme of this truly monumental work. As, however, it has already been frequently noticed in the *Journal*, it will suffice here briefly to state that the five volumes under notice deal only with the period from 1795 to the present time.* The "Chronological List of Events" stops in vol. 5 at the year 1895, and the reader is left in doubt

* The earlier period is dealt with in a separate work, in three volumes, entitled 'History and Ethnography of Africa South of the Zambezi.'

as to whether this is to be taken as the concluding part of the present issue. He gets no help from the title-page, which only gives the starting point (1795), and one asks with some perplexity, why stop at 1895? But, however this may be, all that can here be done is to give in rough the contents of the several volumes, at least so far as they differ from the previous editions. Each is furnished with a very full synoptical index, and can be had separately.

In Vol. 1, which covers the period from 1795 to 1828, there is a new preface dated July, 1908, in which the author justly claims that the work is "not alone the only detailed history of South Africa yet prepared, but is a true and absolutely unbiassed narrative." There is also an added note in which the terms Hottentot, Bushman, and Bantu are dealt with.

Vol. 2 runs from 1828 to 1846 for Cape Colony, from 1824 to 1845 for Natal, and from 1836 to 1847 for the Boer trekkers; no added matter.

Vol. 3, Cape Colony from 1846 to 1860; Natal from 1845 to 1857; Kaffraria from 1847 to 1860; Orange and Transvaal Republics from 1847 to 1854. Added matter: (1) List of recently published works on South Africa; (2) Knowledge of bronze possessed by the Bantu; (3) Absence of phallic worship amongst the Bantu.

Vol. 4, Orange and Transvaal States; Zulu, Basuto, Bechuana and Matabele lands from 1854 to 1872. Added matter: (1) Search for the first Bantu tribes; (2) Rapid increase of the Bantu in South Africa between 1839 and 1889.

Vol. 5, Cape Colony and Natal to 1872; Griqualand West to 1880; Great Namaqualand, Damaraland, Transkei, Tembuland, and Griqualand East to 1885; Pondoland and the Portuguese Territory to 1894. Added matter: (1) List of books and pamphlets about South Africa in recent times; (2) Chronological list of principal events in South African history; (3) Notes on the Bushmen and their language.

A. H. K.

AMERICA.

NORTH-WESTERN BRAZIL.

'Zwei Jahre unter den Indianern: Reisen in Nordwest Brasilien 1903-1905.' Von Dr. Theodor Koch-Grünberg. 2 vols., separately paged and with partly separate titles. 1. Pp. iv., 355; 227 *Illustrations in text*, 12 *Plates*, and *Map*. 2. Pp. 413; 218 *Illustrations*, 10 *Plates*, and 4 *Maps*. Berlin: Ernst Wasmuth. 1910.

Amongst recent explorers in South America, where, strange to say, the largest area of unsurveyed land is still to be found, no name stands higher than that of the author of this thoroughly comprehensive account of the north-west region of Brazil, its land and peoples. Dr. Koch-Grünberg had already distinguished himself as one of the most intelligent and discriminating observers of the native races during the memorable expeditions led by Von den Steinen and Ehrenreich to the Xingu and other southern tributaries of the Amazon towards the close of the last century. Now he has transferred the scene of his operations to the other side of the great river, where he has gathered a rich harvest in the Rio Negro basin, and more particularly in its hitherto much neglected Uaupes tributary and its numerous affluents right up to the Colombia frontier. A clear idea of the vast area covered during the two years 1903-5 is given by the map showing his routes along the main streams from Manaos to their sources, and down the Yapura back to Manaos at its junction with the Amazons.

It is impossible in a few lines to convey an adequate notion of the immense amount of work done; but it may be stated that hundreds of points were astronomically fixed, over 1000 photographs were taken and developed on the spot, thus giving endless views of the physical features, scenery, and general aspect of