Review

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interest to note that the German writer, Dr. Meyer ('Das deutsche Kolonialreich') remarks that this great system of lake railways will undoubtedly constitute the nearest feelers towards the sea of the great Trans-African Overland Route; and that these railways, connecting up from the east and from the west, will all trend towards the coming great north and south route, made up of waterways and railroads, the Cape to Cairo Line.

C. P. MACCARTHY.

REVIEWS

EUROPE

Roumania Yesterday and To-day.— Mrs. Will Gordon. London: John Lane. 1918. Pp. xxxii. and 270. *Illustrations.* 10s. 6d. net.

THE tragic fate which has befallen Rumania, chiefly, it would seem, on account of events in Russia, both before and after the Revolution, is perhaps not so fully known in this country as it should be, and it is certain that before the war relatively little was known of the country by the majority here. Mrs. Gordon divides her book into two parts, of which the first gives a general sketch of Rumania as it appeared before the war, while the second is devoted to a description of the course of events after her entry into the war in August 1916. The Queen of Rumania contributes an introduction and two chapters, and the profits are to be devoted to Rumanian relief funds. The author states that her purpose is to arouse sympathetic interest in the country, and to bring about a closer understanding of its difficulties and sufferings. The book, with its fine photographs and its frontispiece—a reproduction of Raemakers' cartoon—is well fitted to carry out its purpose, but does not contain very much that will be new to those who have studied the subject and have followed recent events. There are, however, some interesting notes on the customs and folk-lore of the people. The part played by rain and water charms in peasant life is emphasized, and is related to the drought of summer. Thus it is noted that a newly wedded wife throws a coin into the well to propitiate the indwelling spirit, while when a pitcher is filled it is customary to sprinkle a few drops on the ground as an offering to the water spirit. So also a widow, who must visit the grave of her husband daily for forty days, leaves water beside it in case the spirit of the dead should suffer from thirst. Again, to sprinkle water before the feet of any one is to do him great honour. Rain-making ceremonies are also said to be performed, but no details are given.

Brief sketches of the Rumanian Vlachs, gipsies, and Jews are given in another chapter, and there is a short summary of Rumanian history.

M. I. N.

Montenegro in History, Politics, and War.—Alex. Devine. London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1918. Pp. xi. and 140. *Sketch-map.* Price 3s. 6d. net.

Like the volume on Rumania reviewed above, the present one has a double purpose in view—to arouse sympathy for a vanquished ally, and to help to raise money for Relief Funds. Mr. Devine's book is however on a smaller scale, and is largely historical and political, the description of present-day conditions being limited to a few pages at the beginning of the first chapter. These give an interesting sketch of the country and its people, bringing out clearly the essentially "primitive" nature of social life within it. Despite the