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known region of Italy. But those who expect an historical guide to Piedmont, after the manner of Hare or Arthur Symons, will be disappointed. The authors confine themselves almost exclusively to the Val d'Aosta and Vaudois valleys, and the towns of Cuneo, Mondovi, Ceresole Reale, Ivrea, Susa, and Saluzzo, in many respects the most interesting of Piedmont, are barely mentioned.

The authors have studied the *vie intime* of Piedmont to some purpose, and the book is crammed with legends and myths, and curious examples of folklore. Piedmont is a particularly rich field for the sociologist and student of folklore, where the very peasants talk in proverbs. Though Miss Canziani has confined her attention mainly to one portion of Piedmont, yet many of the folk-songs and rhymed proverbs she has transcribed are common to the whole province. A typical cradle-song runs as follows, though the author has unwittingly curtailed it, and we add the two lines omitted:—

<p>“ Fioca, fioca, La Galina fa l'oca; Piov, piov, La Galina fa l'ov; L'ov rubata, La Galina va mata.”</p>	<p>“ When it snows, snows, The hen acts the goose; When it rains, rains, The hen lays an egg; The egg falls, The hen goes mad.”</p>
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The coloured illustrations, all admirably reproduced, add much to the value of an unusually interesting book. The subjects are varied, and give a good idea of the combination of pastoral and Alpine scenery which the Piedmont valleys offer, and there are charming illustrations of the various phases of Piedmont life, varied with elaborate studies of costumes, in which the various types of peasants are faithfully depicted. Certainly these illustrations show a great advance on those in the ordinary topographical “colour book.”

E. A. R. B.

#### ALBANIA.

‘Albania, the Foundling State of Europe.’ By Wadham Peacock. London: Chapman & Hall. 1914. *Illustrations*. 7s. 6d. net.

This book has appeared opportunely when the Albanian question is occupying so much attention, although there is little reference to the modern state of affairs, and the account is of a residence many years ago. It gives a clear and vivid account of life in Scutari and in Northern Albania while still under Turkish rule; the manners and customs of the “Shkypetars,” or Sons of the Eagle, are well portrayed in the description of a visit to the tribes in the rocky hills that rise so steeply east of Scutari, telling of their blood feuds and ancient code of laws based mainly on the *lex talionis*. The tale is lightened by many humorous stories, and there is much interesting information also regarding the history of this, one of the most ancient of European peoples, which looks on Slav, Turk, and Greek as interlopers in a domain that has been its own since the dawn of history.

Mr. Peacock does well to point out that the area inhabited by Albanians prior to the Balkan war is much larger than the territory which the Powers eventually allotted to them, and he sketches a problematical frontier which would undoubtedly have constituted a more compact Albanian State, but many interests had to be consulted, and the result was the present compromise. It may be doubted whether Scutari represents the capital of Albania of the present day, although when he lived there it happened then to be the centre of Ottoman

rule and the abode of the consuls. Rather is this to be found in central Albania, inland from Durazzo and centred round Tirana, Elbassan, and Berat.

Descriptions of Albanians nearly always depict a picturesque mountaineer on a hilltop, but, strange to say, there are such people as Albanian commercial men, newspapers in the Albanian language, and hard-working peasants on the fertile level country between Darazzo and Tirana.

Mr. Peacock is not quite up to date in his photograph of the Albanian script; this is not in the Greek but in the Latin style of lettering, as may be seen from the newspapers.

It may be doubted if the federal scheme which Mr. Peacock suggests would be the best for the new state; it would rather accentuate the present aloofness of one section from the other. Communication, both by motor roads and rail, are the first things needed to weld the state in a harmonious whole, and the national spirit of the Shkypetar may be trusted to supply the necessary cement to the fabric, and this may be said notwithstanding the picturesque and turbulent confusion which characterizes the state just at the present moment.

F. R. M.

#### THE VEGETATION OF THE PEAK DISTRICT.

'The Vegetation of the Peak District.' By C. E. Moss, B.A., D.Sc. Cambridge: University Press. 1913. *Photographs and Maps*.

The method adopted in this excellent book, of discussing the distribution of different plant formations and associations, is doubtless the best and most scientific way of studying the vegetation of a region, although there may possibly be some who would prefer to see the subject arranged on a topographical basis with the flora of each district separately described. After an instructive chapter on the general physiography of the Peak, Dr. Moss deals in a thorough and original style with the ecology of the district, the chapters dealing in turn with the woodland associations, scrub associations, grassland associations, associations of rocks and screes, marsh and aquatic associations, moorland associations, culture associations of cultivated lands, and the relations of the different plant communities. After altitude, the geological and edaphic factors appear to be of most importance in the distribution of the vegetation, the great sandstone and limestone areas supporting very different characteristic types—the ash wood association of *Fraginus excelsior* being especially relegated to the mountain limestone, and the oak and birch associations of *Quercus sessiliflora* and *Betula pubescens* to the shales and sandstones. There are great difficulties attendant upon a systematic classification of plant groups, as of other natural phenomena, of which the author is apparently aware. As an example of his system of nomenclature we may mention the terms *Silicion Querceti-sessilifloræ*, and *Silicion Betuleti-pubescentis*, representing the two chief woodland associations of the formation characteristic of the non-calcareous soils of the district. Such a system may no doubt be useful if not carried too far. On p. 212, Dr. Moss considers the question of the possible afforestation of some of the desolate peaty uplands, and points out that the whole subject of the afforestation of British uplands has never been treated in a scientific spirit. Throughout the Pennines climatic conditions are most severe—a fact never lost sight of by Dr. Moss in his book—and the plantation of wood would require many important precautionary measures. Derbyshire dales are not without belching factory chimneys, and they, moreover, suffer somewhat from the smoke drift from Lancashire and Yorkshire. The deleterious effect of this smoke on the vegetation of the Peak is discussed in an interesting section on p. 25, and attributed to the clogging of