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before the rains. "The reflective stranger who has seen these waters allowed to empty into the ocean and leave the land on either side still an arid wilderness cannot but regret that South Africa has not an irrigation system like that of Egypt or India."

Some attention is paid to the Kafir and coloured problems, and reference is made to Mr. F. W. Bell's valuable paper on "The Native as a Political Factor" (1908). But the Bechuanas are wrongly stated to be the first Bantu arrivals from the north some time before the sixteenth century. They were most probably preceded by the Zulu-Xosas, if not by the Ova-Herero, some thousand years ago. Nor do these Herero speak a Hottentot language, but a very pure and typical Bantu tongue. It is their cousins, the Hill Damaras, that have become Hottentots in speech.

There is a not too full index, besides two serviceable maps, one showing the growth of British South Africa, the other the same region under the Union Act of 1909.

A. H. K.

'Loi sur le Gouvernement du Congo Belge.' (Luzac & Co., Great Russell Street, W.C. 1909.) This is a valuable compilation giving in parallel columns the text of the various proposals considered by the Belgian chamber for the government of the Congo, including the law as finally voted in 1908. Thus can be traced the numerous modifications in the direction of parliamentary control which were made by the legislature, before it consented to the transfer of the Congo to Belgium. The discussions in the famous Commission of XVII. and in the legislature on the proposals of 1907 and 1908 are also summarized, and an analysis is given of the abortive *projet de loi* of 1901. This laborious task has been accomplished by Mr. J. Tournay-Detillieux, an ex-senator and deputy and member of the colonial council. The arguments put forward on all sides appear to be impartially stated. Had the text of the treaty of annexation been given, the usefulness of the volume would have been increased.

AMERICA.

PANAMA AND ECUADOR.

Dr. E. Festa, 'Nel Darien e nell' Ecuador. Diario di Viaggio di un Naturalista.' 1909. Unione Tip.-Editrice Torinese, Torino. Pp. 397. Price 10 lire.

The author, who had previously journeyed in Tunis, Lower Egypt, and Syria, set out in 1905 to the Panama peninsula, where he made excursions to the Rios Tuyra, Sabana, and other streams flowing into the Golfo de San Miguel, and then sailed southwards to Ecuador. Here he spent several months in the east of the province of Azuay, among the headwaters of the Rio Santiago, which he wished to descend to the Pongo de Manseriche, but was prevented by the difficulty of procuring porters. He then travelled northwards through Riobamba, Quito, and Ibarra to Tulcan, and would have proceeded to the source region of the Rio Aguarico if the Columbian Government would have allowed him. He also visited the forests of the Rio Daule. Dr. Festa made a rough traverse of the country about the source streams of the Rio Santiago, and his observations and those of Señor Giacinto Pancheri are utilized in a map based on those of older cartographers. On the whole, however, his work is of interest to the zoologist rather than to the geographer. He made large collections of specimens from all sections of the animal kingdom, and discovered many species new to science. A list is given at the end of the volume, but much of the material has yet to be worked up, and therefore the value of the collections cannot at present be fully appreciated. Notices of the distribution of the fauna are numerous throughout the work. Dr. Festa also collected some

ethnological objects, and describes the habits and customs of the Jivaros and other tribes with which he came in contact during the two years and a half he spent in the country. The work is illustrated by seventy-two photographs and two maps.

W. A. T.

EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL.

'Comissão Geographica e Geologica do Estado de S. Paulo.' Exploração do Rio Tieté 1906 (1907); Exploração dos Rios Feio e Aguapehy, 1905 (1906); Exploração do Rio Peixe, 1907 (1907). Folio.

The Geographical and Geological Commission of the State of S. Paulo has recently been carrying out a survey of the Paraná and its more important tributaries in the State with a view to the development of the country, which has hitherto been seriously retarded by the hostility of the Corôados, a tribe of Indians who receive their name from the crown of feathers that forms their headgear.

There are five important streams that flow north-westward through the state and empty themselves into the Paraná. These are, commencing from the north-east, the Rio S. José dos Dourados, the Rio Tieté, the Rio Aguapehy, the Rio do Peixe, and the Rio Santa Anastacio. Of them the Tieté is the most important. It rises in the Serra do Mar close to the Atlantic, and flows across nearly the whole breadth of the state. The upper portion being already well known, the recent expedition under the leadership of Senhor George Black Scorrar only explored the portion between Laranja Azeda at the mouth of the Jacaré Guassú (or Jacaré Grande), and the Paraná.

Senhor Guilherme Florence furnishes us, however, with an interesting account of the geology of the whole stream. It flows through granite and crystalline schists, except where it traverses the small Tertiary basin on which the capital of the state is built. At the Salto de Ytu it passes into sandstone and shales, which are probably of Upper Carboniferous age. Here it is interrupted by a number of rapids, which, above Porto Feliz are usually formed of sandstone, and below, of a rock described as a "diabase porphyrite." About 15 miles above the mouth of the Sorocaba the river enters a region in which sandstone and shales are interstratified with fossiliferous limestone and chert of Permian age. The massive red Botucatú sandstone, which is believed to be of Triassic age, is next encountered. It first comes in below the point where the river Piracicaba enters the main stream, and extends into the tract examined by the expedition. Interstratified with it are flows of "diabase," the outcrops of which, often repeated by faulting, give rise to numerous rapids and cataracts. On the banks the diabase weathers to a red fertile soil known as *terra róxa*. At the port of Cordeiro a still younger formation, the Baurú sandstone, is met with. It is a pale, whitish calcareous sandstone without lava-flows, and for the 43 miles over which it extends the river is deep and with almost imperceptible current, so that it is known as the Rio Morto, or Mansa da Viuva. At the mouth of the Fartura stream the Botucatú sandstone reappears with its lava-flows and its cataracts, of which the most important is the Salto de Avanhandava. Below the Escaramuça rapid the Baurú sandstone appears for the second time, and gives rise to another stretch of quiet water till, at the Salto de Macuco the Botucatú comes in for the third time with the same features as before. It affords, however, one tract of smooth water—the Manso de Lambary—extending over 12 miles from the Corredeira (rapid) de Aracanguá to the Corredeira das Cruzes, and due to the absence of lava-flows. The lavas and cataracts then recommence, and continue at intervals through the remainder of the course of the river, concluding with the magnificent Salto de