

Review

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man has forbidden them to consume. On the Nile journey we get choice stories of lion, buffalo, hippopotamus, antelope, and the danger of attack by infuriated bees. We have accounts of bird life in such abundance as almost to stagger belief. Attention may be called to the discovery in the Upper Nile of "hippos" which habitually spend the whole day ashore. Returning to Khartoum the author takes us up the Blue Nile and Dinder, thence to the Red Sea hills and islands; we finally leave the Sudan, and our guide, with reluctance by the northern desert. Appendices deal with the giant eland, the white rhinoceros, and colour protection. We have noticed but one geographical error of any moment; the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan does not cover a fifth part of Africa, but scarcely an eleventh part.

F. R. C.

An Introduction to the Flora of Natal and Zululand— J. W. Bews, M.A., D.Sc. Pietermaritzburg: City Printing Works [London: Wheldon & Wesley]. 1921. Price 15s.

This will certainly prove an indispensable *vade mecum* for the student of the flora and plant ecology of Natal and Zululand, as it gives a complete list, systematically arranged, of all the species so far recorded, with concise indications of their distribution and the nature of their habitat. A short introduction sketches the history of botanical exploration in Natal, giving the names of all who have contributed in any important degree to making known the plant-life of the colony within the past hundred years. There is also a select bibliography and a useful key to the families. No one has done more than Dr. Bews to extend our knowledge of Natal botany within recent years, and his promised general ecological account of Natal vegetation, originally intended to form part of the present work, should be of still greater interest from a geographical point of view.

The Soul of Central Africa.— The Rev. John Roscoe. Pp. xvi. and 336. 56 Plates and Map. London: Cassell & Co. 25s. net.

During 1919-20 Mr. Roscoe carried out ethnological investigations among various tribes in the Uganda Protectorate, and in 'The Soul of Central Africa' he gives us the general result of his work, reserving for publication elsewhere the information gathered of a "more purely scientific character." Mr. Roscoe's competence for the task he undertook is well known to all interested in African ethnology; his studies of the Baganda are highly esteemed. In the present volume he deals principally with the Bahuma of Ankole, the Bunyoro, and the Bagesu of Mount Elgon. Much of his information was gathered by patient questioning of individuals who could tell of ceremonies and beliefs current before the advent of the white man. Even in the heart of Central Africa customs are changing with apparent rapidity, and we are grateful to Mr. Roscoe for having rescued this record before knowledge of ancient ways had been lost among the tribes he visited. The story is of great interest and helps forward our understanding of primitive man and his intense belief in the world of spirits. It tends to show, under varying local conditions, the universality of certain conceptions; it has already been observed that parallels to the beliefs of these African tribes are to be found among the Semitic and other peoples.

Apart from its ethnological aspects this volume may be commended for its topographical setting. It is in the form of a narrative of travel and in simple style presents what every one will recognize as a true picture of what the country looks like. This effect is in part produced by an attention to detail sometimes perhaps too minute, though Mr. Roscoe adroitly avoids

wearying his readers. There is also a thought-compelling chapter on the changes—not all for the good—produced in Buganda by thirty years of missionary effort and European rule; a subject upon which as an ex-missionary in Uganda Mr. Roscoe writes with authority. Those who remember well the stormy times of Kabarega of Unyoro will be glad to read the particulars given by the author in chapter vii. about that valiant and perhaps misunderstood heathen warrior, now an old man, an exile, and a convert to Christianity.

On one point the general reader may justly complain that he is being misled. It is hardly fair of Mr. Roscoe to talk of the Luenzori mountains without giving a hint that he is referring to Ruwenzori. F. R. C.

Wild Bush Tribes of Tropical Africa.— G. Cyril Claridge. Pp. 314. *Illustrations and Map*. London: Seeley, Service & Co. 1922. 21s. net.

The bush tribes described by Mr. Claridge are those of Northern Angola, from the Congo river in the north to St. Paul de Loanda in the south—and chiefly those tribes who live within the bounds of the ancient kingdom of Kongo. The author writes with the experience gained by twelve years' residence among and a careful study of these primitive peoples, who in several respects have been but slightly affected by their contact with Europeans. He gives an excellent picture both of the country and its inhabitants. The chapter on Portuguese present-day methods is painful reading. It depicts abuses which, it is understood, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Angola is now endeavouring to remove. Little is omitted in this account of the Bacongo folk, so that we get a good working knowledge of their daily life, whether at home, in the field, out hunting or fishing, weaving cloth, story-telling or expressing themselves through the medium of music. But the most informative chapters deal with secret societies and fetish; attention may be particularly directed to the full description of what seems to be a unique death and resurrection society, and to the account of the *nkamba* fetish, which deals with the state and relationship of motherhood and infancy.

The author would do well to avoid the impressionist style adopted, especially in the two first chapters, and he should revise sentences such as this: "At Pontievill (sic) we steamed alongside a river of even great romance than the Congo; the Lualaba." Nor is it desirable to disguise Dakar under the spelling "Dacca," though the sound may be nearly the same. When he gets to his subject proper Mr. Claridge is however, as has been indicated, on safe ground, and he has done good service by the light he has thrown on the manners, customs, and beliefs of the natives of a little-known part of tropical Africa. F. R. C.

AMERICA

Source Book for the Economic Geography of North America — C. C. Colby. The University of Chicago Press. 1921. Pp. xii. and 418. *Maps*. 26s. net.

In this book the author does not attempt to write an economic geography of North America, but by means of chapters derived from various sources, government reports, magazines, scientific journals, etc., to present authoritative material bearing on the subject. Most of this material originally was widely scattered, not infrequently in volumes of other than geographical significance. Its collection in a single volume is bound to be very useful to students, and will help to introduce them to trustworthy sources of information. Treatment of this sort is far from exhaustive, but the volume might have been made