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Author(s): F. R. C.

Review by: F. R. C.

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## WESTERN UGANDA.

'Soldiering and Sport in Uganda, 1909-1910.' By Captain E. G. Dion Lardner. London and Felling-on-Tyne: The Walter Scott Publishing Co., Ltd. 1912. *Sketch-map and Illustrations.* 10s. net.

Captain Dion Lardner's account of a year spent in the Uganda Protectorate makes interesting reading. A large part of the book is occupied with sporting incidents and adventures (and these are well and modestly told), but its value chiefly lies in the description of the south-west corner of the protectorate, the region, little known, where the Anglo-Belgian-German frontiers have recently been delimited. For some months Captain Lardner was in charge of a detachment of the King's African Rifles stationed at Kigezi, on the skirts of the Mfumbiro region, while a few miles off a Belgian force was encamped. In various journeys between Kigezi and Inbarara in Ankole the captain became fairly acquainted with the district, and being gifted with the ability vividly to picture places seen his descriptions give the reader a good deal of knowledge of this latest addition to the British Empire. It is a land where "capacious lakes, frowning volcanoes, cultivated plains, break on the vision in tumultuous confusion." It is indeed a wonderful country, which some day may become the favourite playground of Europeans in Central Africa, its altitude rendering the climate most enjoyable for white men. Since this book was published a systematic account of part of the region has been furnished by Captain E. M. Jack (*Journal*, 41, p. 532); but Captain Lardner's narrative contains many details which Captain Jack was unable to present. We get also some curious light on the state of tension which preceded the agreement with Belgium as to the ownership of the country.

For the rest this book shows, unconsciously, for the story is told with evident ingenuousness, that the author was just the right type of young officer to represent Britain in a distant outpost. He studies and respects the natives, sets himself to learn their languages, "reads up" the history of the land, and is interested in its economic development. One feels that his future career should be in Equatorial Africa.

Colonel R. H. Vetch contributes a foreword, notable for a deserved tribute to the Baganda martyrs in the days of the foundation of Christianity in their country. Colonel Vetch falls into a singular error. He describes Speke and Grant as meeting with Samuel Baker on the western shores of Victoria Nyanza.

The illustrations are good and add considerably to the attractiveness of the volume.

F. R. C.

## PEOPLES OF THE CONGO BASIN.

'Camp and Tramp in African Wilds.' By E. Torday. London: Seely, Service & Co., Ltd. 1913. *Illustrations and Map.* 16s. net.

Mr. Torday here gives us a summary of his early journeys (1900-1907) in the Congo regions; his later and greater expedition in the Kasai basin is already well known. The districts now described lie mainly in the Sankuru basin and between the Lualaba and Tanganyika. There are excellent descriptions of the lands visited, but the author is more concerned with peoples than places. He gives us a wonderfully vivid picture of the manner of life of the Bantu folk among whom he lived, notably that of the Bambala. The sympathy with and insight into the character of the African which Mr. Torday possesses in a marked degree will be communicated, at least in part, to every reader of these pages. The student of ethnology, who must gather his information here and there as he