
Review: Uganda Peoples

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scattered throughout the diary form a valuable addition to the knowledge of Central African tribes.

The scientific results of the journey the diary describes have already been made public. Here it is necessary only to recall that after visiting the islands of Fernando Po, Principe, Annobon, and São Thomé to make collections of the avi-fauna, Boyd Alexander traversed Kamerun (witnessing an eruption of its great volcano), crossed into Nigeria to Ibi, on the Benue, and thence by Yola and Dikoa made his way to Fort Lamy. With the permission of the French he continued his journey to Wadai, reaching Abeshir at a moment when the French hold of that town was very precarious. Boyd Alexander's object was to travel to Khartum *viâ* Darfur, and he sent letters to Sultan Ali Dinar, seeking permission to pass through his territory. This permission was granted; but before Alexander received this news he had, with the consent of the French, hurried on to Dar Tama to try and prevent hostilities between a raiding force of Furians and the French troops. By the Furians, ignorant of Ali Dinar's intentions, he was murdered. Mr. Herbert Alexander states that "a word of thanks" for his brother's patriotic deed is still awaited. Boyd Alexander deserved this honour, and if official recognition be lacking, the publication of his diary will put his memory right with his countrymen. His death was not due to any foolhardiness, though now we know that had he waited a little longer at Abeshir he might have finished his journey in safety. Besides the valuable ethnological notes, the diary contains many vivid descriptions of land formations and some illuminating criticisms of Spanish, Portuguese, German, British, and French methods of administration. There is also the touching story of his faithful little dog San Thomé.

Mr. Herbert Alexander's memoir of his brother is a brief and admirable piece of writing, accomplishing that which it sets out to achieve—the portrait of a man whose life was not alone void of offence, but was that of the best type of an English gentleman, though, indeed, the Alexanders are of Scottish descent. Boyd Alexander is the last and not the least illustrious of the men who take rank in the roll of great African explorers.

F. R. C.

UGANDA PEOPLES.

'On the Backwaters of the Nile. Studies of some Child Races of Central Africa.' By the Rev. A. L. Kitching, M.A. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1912. *Illustrations and Sketch-maps*. 12s. 6d. net.

The races inhabiting the outlying parts of the Uganda Protectorate are now undergoing that change which comes over primitive peoples when brought into contact with Western civilization. Mr. Kitching, of the Church Missionary Society, has done an admirable piece of work in this study of various tribes among whom he has lived, and whose mental outlook he has shown a marked capacity for understanding.

Three main types of the inhabitants of the Protectorate are described—Bantu peoples of Bunyoro and Toro, Nilotics, and Nilotic-Hamites. No attempt can here be made properly to appraise the anthropological work Mr. Kitching has done: it is considerable. The peoples of Bunyoro and Toro have been dealt with by other writers, but the author has several new things to tell about them. When writing of the tribes of Northern and North-Eastern Uganda he is on ground little traversed previously. He takes the Gan as typical of the Nilotic people, and his use of this, the native name of the tribe, is indicative of the exactness of his style. Usually the Gan are called by the Bantu name Akoli or

Acholi, but it is noteworthy that Speke, telling of the memorable journey in which he discovered the Nile source, calls these people Gani. Speke traversed their country, and, like Mr. Kitching, was struck with their close racial connection with the Madi. The Gan are a fine race, and should prove an asset to the Protectorate. For his third type the author selects the Teso, a tribe, akin to the Turkana and Suk, which dwells in the land between Lake Kioga and Mount Elgon. This is the district which is becoming the great cotton producing area of Uganda, and it is of interest to learn that among the Teso the men are rather addicted to hard manual labour. They are also addicted to other things, it would seem, but they are cheery and goodnatured, and a Teso, "whether drunk or sober, hovers round [a visitor] in a transport of effusive welcome." There are many things in this book which all who are called upon to work in Uganda—or among other "child races"—should bear in mind; perhaps none is of greater importance than the need to comprehend the language of the people. Mr. Kitching himself, by his valuable philological labours, has set an excellent example. He is also to be commended for the attention he has paid to native music.

The opening chapters give the reader just that topographical knowledge he needs. He gains a vivid impression of what the country looks like, and is skilfully shown the effect of geographical environment on human progress. The illustrations are very good, but the map might be better, and the index is of scarcely any value. It does not even give the entry "Gan."

F. R. C.

NORTHERN RHODESIA.

'In South Central Africa.' By J. M. Moubray, F.R.G.S. London: Constable & Co., Ltd. 1912. *With Map and Photographs by the Author.* 10s. 6d. net.

This book is the result of six years' experience gained by the author while engaged as a mining engineer in Northern Rhodesia. It contains a good topographical account of a region still imperfectly known, and valuable information concerning the native races. The ordinary reader may confidently consult it as a trustworthy guide; the professed anthropologist will regret that Mr. Moubray does not always specify the tribe about which he is writing. Some exciting hunting adventures are given. The author, though he does not go deeply into social problems, has some pertinent things to say concerning the position of blacks and whites. The white man in Rhodesia, he holds, must not be afraid of manual labour. As in other parts of South Africa, the danger in Rhodesia is, it appears, that the white man may sink to the position of a mere overseer—a position irreconcilable with South Africa being in a true sense a white man's country. Like all observers who do not take short views, Mr. Moubray recognizes the great debt the country owes to the missionary. His remarks on the subject (pp. 34-35) are eminently sensible. In some comments on Congo officials, the author strikes the same note that Lord Cromer has sounded—that character is of greater importance than brains. And an essential of success in one in any position of authority is close contact with and understanding of the people. Mr. Moubray fulfilled this condition, and to this fact is due the chief value of his book. It has enabled him to draw a picture of the people which is full of little intimate touches, helping the reader to make some progress in that now fashionable, and commendable practice, of "thinking black."