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Author(s): R. T. T.

Review by: R. T. T.

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necessary as time goes by. This book will be of the greatest service to all working geologists and geographers, for it brings to a focus our knowledge of the geology of the Austrian Empire, and with its ample bibliographical references renders it an easy matter to consult the more special monographs and maps. Though the volume is a bulky one, it contains no more than a useful *précis* of the literature. It is everywhere condensed, and its authors may be congratulated, not only on the judgment they have shown in selecting their materials, but also on the literary skill with which they have woven them together. Prof. Diener's chapters on the Tyrol may perhaps be cited as the best instance of this; the intricate nature of the geology, together with the numerous controversies which have arisen regarding it, and the long list of famous geologists who have contributed to its investigation, make this district a centre of interest to all geologists, and it is a boon to have a clear, brief, and reliable account of the latest views on the subject. In his difficult task, Prof. Diener has attained a very large measure of success, and while on the whole he takes up a conservative attitude, he is far from adhering slavishly to the views of the earlier school of Austrian geologists. Prof. Uhlig's account of the Carpathians is almost equally interesting. It would be difficult to point to better examples of the art of explaining complex geological structures than it affords. But the whole book is thoroughly readable, and should be so even to the unscientific, for no great knowledge of geology is assumed on the part of the reader, and the sections and photographic views with which the book is illustrated help greatly to give point and meaning to the statements in the text. It would probably have been well had more sketch-maps been provided, for the larger-scale geological maps are somewhat inaccessible to the ordinary man, and the topographical details into which the authors enter are often confusing. A more serious deficiency is the absence of a general index, as the chapter of contents, though full, is by no means sufficient to serve in its place.

The principal aim of the book is to give an account of the geological structure of the Austrian empire. Geographical evolution and physiographical development are treated of incidentally, and in some cases with considerable detail. The palæontology of the various formations described is hardly considered at all, and petrography also is relegated to the background. These are probably no more than necessary restrictions in the scope of the work; had they been relaxed, it is certain that the volume would have been still more bulky and far less readable than it is. Controversial subjects are mostly sketched in outline, the reader being referred to the original papers. In the same way, the history of the advance of geological research is not allowed to occupy more than a small proportion of the space, though it is nowhere neglected. An eloquent introduction has been contributed by Prof. E. Suess, who remarks on the rich variety of Austrian geology and the many eminent names which are linked with its investigation.

J. S. F.

ASIA.

MANCHURIA AND KOREA.

'Manchuria and Korea.' By H. J. Whigham, author of 'The Persian Problem,' etc.
London: Isbister & Co. 1904.

Under this title we have a graphic description of the more important points of the political situation, as they appeared to a traveller in the Far East. One wishes that the author had been able to see the book through the press himself, as, no doubt, certain small details would have been corrected. The title would have been better with some amplification, as the bare names of the countries convey no adequate idea of the matter between the covers. The opening chapters

are the usual refrain, which one hears everywhere amongst Britishers in the Far East, viz. "The British Government has badly neglected the interests of its people." One wonders why such a keen observer did not perceive and place on record that, in addition to the slackness of the Government, the ordinary British merchant has not risen to the occasion with his traditional alertness. The author might have instanced a leading British hong in Newchwang to show how adverse circumstances could be overcome, first and foremost, by the active members of the firm being adepts at speaking, not only Chinese, but French, and, thus, able to do business direct with natives and high Russian officials. Also, having one member conversant with Japanese customs and language, they have successfully competed for Japanese business. Whereas the usual practice is for the British merchant to do everything through the medium of the English-speaking natives; thus handicapping himself when competing with the enterprising Japanese or persevering Germans.

The book is well worthy of careful study. Point after point is clearly brought forward; thus attention is called to the fact that the heavy goods trade of the port of Newchwang must continue, whereas a new class of export and imports will make Dalny flourishing. The descriptions of the richness and beauty of the country are by no means overdrawn, especially when seen in summer or early autumn.

The Russo-Chinese Bank has done something, and might do much more, to mitigate the barbarous systems which have grown up through lack of a proper currency. A very great impetus has, undoubtedly, been given to trade by the railway and bank, but everything has been kept back by the idea of a great war, which possessed every native merchant.

The concluding chapters on Korea and the conditions in that unfortunate land, are well worthy of consideration, whilst the remarks on the German policy in Shantung deserve special attention. This book should be read together with 'The Russian Advance,' by A. J. Beveridge.

R. T. T.

AFRICA.

A WORD-PICTURE OF NYASALAND.

'Nyassaland under the Foreign Office.' By H. L. Duff. London: George Bell. 1903. Pp. xvi. and 422. *With a Map.*

Descriptive topographical work may be divided into three classes—that which leaves no impression of the subject on the mind ignorant of it; that which leaves a false impression; and that which leaves an impression which the mind, though ignorant, feels to be accurate. The first is provided by the class of traveller who adheres too closely to deeds and the use of the first person; the second may be the outcome of various characteristics from inborn inaccuracy to local patriotism; the third is given to that true observer who has at command a flow of convincing language. In this class, and highly placed in it, stand Mr. Duff's work on Nyassaland. Avoiding controversy, avoiding political or scientific discussion, he confines himself purely to things seen, and his words carry conviction that they represent these things, and therefore Nyassaland, not dreamland.

He dismisses very briefly the circumstances of Nyassaland previous to, and leading up to, the establishment of the British Central Africa Protectorate. They have been detailed by men who took a share in them, and Mr. Duff writes no more about them than is necessary to introduce his subject. Then the reader is led up the Zambezi, through the network of channels above its mouth, and up the boldly