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# MAN

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATTER, 1903.

### REVIEWS.

Central America.

Sapper.

*Mittel-Amerikanische Reisen und Studien*. By Dr. Carl Sapper. Brunswick, 1902. 23 × 15. Pp. 426, with 60 illustrations and 4 maps. Price 10 marks.

*Das Nördliche Mittel-Amerika*. By Dr. Carl Sapper. Brunswick, 1897. 23 × 14. Pp. 436, with 17 illustrations and 8 maps. Price 9 marks.

These two volumes may appropriately be considered beside Dr. Selser's work (*Die Alten Ansiedelungen von Chaculá*, see MAN, 1903.5), with which they are connected from a geographical standpoint, though the subjects and the treatment are very different. Dr. Selser, in short, is the archæologist and savant, Dr. Sapper is the explorer and geographer. During a twelve years' residence in Central America this indefatigable man occupied himself throughout the dry season in travelling over the length and breadth of the country from Anáhuac to Panama, almost always on foot with one or two native porters and with such guides as could be procured. In this adventurous life he acquired much experience and information, which he has here embodied in literary form. The anthropologist has only to regret that ethnography, which occupies so important a place in the earlier volume, is subordinated in the later to the observations on geography, geology, and the economic development of the modern republics.

Taking this first, we remark that *Mittel-Amerikanische Reisen und Studien* contains only one or two chapters which appeal immediately to the anthropologist. They are those which deal respectively with the Payas of Honduras, the rapidly-disappearing Guatusos of Costa Rica, the Chirripós of the same country, and the "Mosquito" and Sumo Indians. In the remaining pages there are only incidental allusions to the native tribes. Unfair as it undoubtedly is to reproach the author of an excellent book for not choosing a different subject, we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the author is only postponing to a more convenient time the full and detailed ethnographical account of these regions. Meanwhile it may be said that his "travels and studies" are calculated to give a very good general idea of the country and of the future prospects of the several states

into which it is divided. The first part (pp. 1-251) is an interesting, if sometimes rather prolix, narrative of some sixteen expeditions in various directions, while the second part contains an admirable review of the economic conditions of Central America with especial reference to its possibilities as a field for commerce and for agriculture. An appendix gives statistics on such subjects as rainfall and climatic conditions, exports, imports, railways, &c. The value of the author's contributions to geographical knowledge will be judged from the four maps which illustrate the comparative levels of the land, the distribution of vegetation, the trade routes, &c.

*Das Nördliche Mittel - Amerika*, though written partly on the same lines, will probably be a much more attractive book in the eyes of most of those who may read this critique. Here, again, we are given (pp. 1-166) a narrative of several journeys, though Vera-Paz, Guatemala, Peten, Mexico, and Yucatan, and again this is followed by a review of the general condition of the countries in question. But some 200 pages are devoted to ethnography and linguistics, or to observations on the ancient monuments. As the writer visited such little known tribes as the independent Mayas of Central and Eastern Yucatan, and the Lacandónes, he records much that is of absorbing interest. The short account of the Lacandónes describes them as a timid and shy folk, reduced to about 200 or 300 souls. Though spoiled only within the last few years by the introduction of modern implements, they are almost a Stone-Age people. Occupied chiefly in hunting, they use bows and arrows both in fishing and for the chase; the arrows with which they kill the larger game being tipped with chipped flints. Their dress and their implements are described, and a paragraph is devoted to the details of one of their pagan sanctuaries.

An admirable essay describes the religious beliefs of the Kekchi Indians. Even such of their prayers as have an externally Christian character preserve old formulæ identical with those of the Pöpol-Vuh book. Besides the Christian God, whose power is only recognised as dominant where there are villages or where crosses stand, they worship the sun, and Tzultacca the god of the forest and stream and special patron of hunting. All

three of these deities are equally styled Kacvua ("our lord"). Twelve Kekchi prayers are given in full in the native language with a translation. The burial and marriage customs of the same people are also described, and there are some notes on their harvest rites and on their doctrine of souls. Other chapters deal with the music and the dances of the natives of North Central America, and with native place-names. One contains some good notes on ancient settlements; and an appendix gives a comparative vocabulary of a few common words in twenty-two cognate dialects. The book is completed by maps showing the volcanoes of Guatemala, the distribution of vegetation, the heights of the mountains, the trade routes, and the distribution of languages, of place names, and of ruined cities. D. RANDALL-MACIVER.

## Phrenology.

Hollander.

*Scientific Phrenology: being a practical Mental Science and Guide to Human Character. An illustrated text-book.* By Bernard Hollander, M.D. London: Grant Richards, 1902. 19 x 13. Pp. viii + 307. Price 6s.

After centuries of work and endless speculation no explanation can yet be offered of why one human head is shaped in one way, and another in another. Every anatomist of repute has, in his time, brought all the up-to-date artillery of the day to bear on this outstanding mark of his impotence with, at the most, a minimum of success. The toil of years, as far as it concerns the skull, may be summed up in three short deductions: (1) it is the chamber of the brain; (2) it is the capsule of sense organs—the eye, ear, and nose; (3) it is part of the apparatus of mastication. Since those are its three functions, and, since we know every organ is adapted, more or less perfectly, to the part it plays in life, we may safely infer that its shape is due to the manner in which it performs these functions. But such an inference does not tell you why your head is long and mine is short, or why my brow slants and yours does not.

The only men who have solved the problem of cephalic morphology are the phrenologists. To Dr. Hollander belongs the honour, not only of having solved it to his own satisfaction, as has also been the case with most of his predecessors, but to the almost universal approval of the gentlemen who guide the general public through the lay and medical press, as to the various values of recent literary work. Dr. Hollander stoutly maintains that the brain is the organ of thought; Dr.

Ferrier is quoted to show that the motor functions are localized, and a hundred portraits of famous men are reproduced as evidence that emotional and intellectual functions are also assigned to special parts of the brain. According to the relative size of each localization, varies the shape of the head and the intellectual and emotional ability.

This work can safely be said to be characterised by imagination. On page 5, for instance, are three "diagrammatic representations of the course of the brain fibres radiating from the centre to the circumference," which, were it not for the inscription, one would accept as illustrations from a surgical text-book, showing how bandages should be applied to an injured head. Certain it is that no man or mammal on this planet ever possessed such an arrangement of fibres.

The only explanation of the following passage I can suggest is that Dr. Hollander has not studied anatomy in the human beings of this planet (see p. 20):—"The frontal lobes are fed by the internal carotid arteries, the parietal and occipital lobes by the basilar artery, the union of the two vertebral arteries. The inosculation of the circle of Willis I believe to have been over-rated. The vaso-motor nerves of these two areas are also differently derived. Those of the posterior area spring from the inferior cervical ganglion, into which run the fibres ascending from the abdomen by the greater splanchnic nerve." All of which would sound to the public, did they know the anatomy of their bodies as intimately as the geography of their country, like a description of the Thames as a river which rose in Kent, flowed past Inverness, and terminated in the Bay of Biscay.

It would be unprofitable to follow the author of this work into an elaborate disquisition on the "quality of the conscious principle," or to criticise his theory of the arrangement of the mental functions in flats within the skull—the highest functions being lodged in the attic and the lowest in the basement or cerebellum. Enough has been said to give an idea of the nature of Dr. Hollander's work. A. KEITH.

## Egypt.

Maspero.

*Manual of Egyptian Archaeology.* By G. Maspero, D.C.L. English translation by Amelia B. Edwards. Fifth edition revised and enlarged by the author. With supplementary chapter by the English editor.