

been taken by Messrs. Brill to produce a type that will satisfy the artistic taste of Muhammadans, who are connoisseurs in calligraphy. They must indeed be hard to please if they do not appreciate the type selected—an adaptation to Persian uses of the Arabic founts of Beyrout. Its delicacy and grace, compared with the pedestrian solidity of that employed e.g. by Lane in his *Lexicon*, recall the famous Greek types of Aldus which make every page a feast for the eye and seem to add a fresh beauty to immortal verse. The cover is severely business-like, and we cannot help wishing that Mr. Browne, or his publishers, had indulged a little in "*Persici apparatus*." But this, at the worst, is a trifling and superficial discord. The contents, beginning with the Persian preface which shows an astonishing command of the language such as probably no other European possesses, and ending with three Indices of the names of persons, places, and books cited in the text, are beyond praise. Most warmly do we congratulate Mr. Browne on the completion of a task which must have occupied a great part of his time during the last five or six years, and most earnestly do we hope that his magnificent efforts to raise Persian scholarship to the high level that has now been reached in Arabic will inspire a like enthusiasm and be rewarded with a full measure of success.

R. A. N.

THE HISTORY OF THE BAHMANI DYNASTY. By Major
J. S. KING. (London: Luzac, 1900.)

The history of the Bahmani Kingdom, its rapid rise, its extensive spread so as to include the whole Dekhan, its wars, its decay and break up all within a period of some 140 years, make a remarkable chapter in the history of the Muhammadan period in India; and the coins of its Sultans have been attractive to the Indian numismatist by their beauty and by the completeness and variety of their legends.

General Briggs' translation of the *Tarikh i Firishtah* has made us familiar with that writer's history of the dynasty, and it has hitherto been followed by writers as the authoritative one, but in this book we have a translation from the *Burhan i Ma'asir* of 'Ali bin 'Aziz Ullah Ṭabaṭaba, a rare MS. written a few years before that of *Firishtah*, with further matter gathered from three or four other Persian MSS. which the author studied. Major King describes Ṭabaṭaba's style as more ornate than that of *Firishtah*, but inferior in general completeness, but there are in his MS. some details of events not given by *Firishtah*, and a different account is given of some other occurrences. Amongst these differences is one in the list and genealogy of the Sultans, which shows the value of having more than one account of things, viz.: the coins of the successor of Daūd, the fourth Sultan, have his name as al-Muzaffar Muhammad Shah, but in *Firishtah*'s list he is called Mahmūd, and he states that Daūd was succeeded by his uncle Mahmūd. This disagreement could not be explained until Ṭabaṭaba's history was studied. He states that Daūd was succeeded by his younger brother Muhammad, and in this he is corroborated by two or three other writers. Another, somewhat similar discrepancy is not unfortunately as yet cleared up. All the writers agree in stating that the eleventh Sultan was succeeded by his son Niẓām Shah. No coins bearing that Sultan's name are known, but some with the name Ahmad Shah bin Humayun Shah Bahmani, dated 866 and 867, the two years in which Niẓām Shah reigned, are described (*Num. Chron.*, 1898, vol. xviii, p. 269).

Major King's knowledge of the Dekhani dialect has enabled him to translate some passages which one acquainted with classical Persian only would find difficult, and the work is a sufficiently literal translation without being wearisome through being too exactly so; the stories of events, too, can be easily followed without one's getting tired with a superabundance of adjectives and confused with the reiteration of personal names.

A useful map and map index are given, and the author

is to be congratulated on identifying so many of the place-names as he has done, a task often of considerable difficulty owing to the names being Indian ones phonetically rendered and transcribed into Persian, and then sometimes altered in the copying by omission or errors of the diacritical marks and by misreading of letters of the script.

O. C.

GRAMMAIRE ASSYRIENNE, par V. SCHEIL and C. FOSSEY.
(Paris: H. Welter, 1901.)

Since the first publication of the elements of Assyrian grammar by Professor Oppert in 1860, many books and papers upon the subject have appeared, from Hincks's "Specimen Chapters of an Assyrian Grammar," in the *Journal of this Society* (New Series, ii, pp. 480-519), in 1866, and the exceedingly useful works of Sayce and Menant, to the very detailed grammar of Professor Fried. Delitzsch, which no student can do without, though a beginner would naturally find it much too voluminous for a really practical guide to the language.

In the work now under notice, MM. Scheil and Fossey have to all appearance tried to steer a middle course between excess and insufficiency of detail, the result being a book which is not by any means unreasonable in the matter of size. The arrangement which they have adopted is also one which will probably recommend itself by its simplicity and logical order. It is when looking through such a work as this, that the old student has forced upon him the fact, that the advantages which the beginner has at the present time are such as he would have given anything for when he himself began.

There are, naturally, in a work of this kind, many things with regard to which differences of opinion may exist, though such are not now likely to prove in any way serious stumbling-blocks to the student, whose chief care should be to learn the facts, and trust to time and more perfect knowledge to solve all difficulties. He will himself, in the