

debased Arabic, was drawn up for the Doctor by a secretary of Râbah. It is a bare and jejune record of his movements, and of his son's after him, until their deaths. The second and third, which narrate a success on Râbah's part, and his murder of M. de Béhagle, who had come to negotiate with him, were told orally to the Doctor by a son of Râbah when a prisoner of the French, and were taken down by him in a transliterated form. All three documents are accompanied by translations, and by full notes on the names and places, and the 'verbal idioms. There follows a French-Arab vocabulary of the terms found current by Dr. Decorse among the inhabitants of the Lower Shari River, with grammatical observations thereon, the origin of the more debased terms being indicated in notes.

The work is a useful addition to Maghrabi literature.

LHASA AND ITS MYSTERIES, WITH A RECORD OF THE EXPEDITION OF 1903-1904. By L. A. WADDELL, LL.D., C.B., C.I.E., F.L.S., F.A.I., Lieut.-Colonel, Indian Medical Service, author of "The Buddhism of Tibet," etc. With 200 illustrations and maps. (London: John Murray, 1905.)

This remarkable volume is a worthy record of the achievements of the recent British mission to the mysterious city of Lhasa by the Principal Medical Officer of the expedition. To adopt the words of the preface, it is, so far as it goes, an intelligible and authentic account of Central Tibet, its capital, its Grand Lama hierarchy, and its dreamy hermit people, as they appeared to one who had had exceptional advantages for making their acquaintance. Its merits have been already acknowledged in many a review, and need not be further insisted on here.

The author gives some prominence to the mystic side of the story, alluding to "the theosophist belief that somewhere beyond the mighty Kaichenjunga there would be found a key which should unlock the mysteries of the old world

that was lost by the sinking of the Atlantis continent in the Western Ocean, about the time when Tibet was being upheaved by the still rising Himalayas." He is amazed by the way the astrologers of Tibet were able to predict the distressful storm which was in store for their country, and gives, in chapter i, the original text of their prophecy, copied by himself from the "Almanac for the Wood-Dragon Year (1904 A.D.)." But diligent inquiries at Lhasa only met with disenchantment, even when Ti Rimpoché, the Regent of Tibet, an excellent portrait of whom faces p. 208, was specially interviewed on such questions:—"Regarding the so-called 'Mahatmas,' it was important to elicit the fact that this Cardinal, one of the most learned and profound scholars in Tibet, was, like the other learned Lamas I have interrogated on the subject, entirely ignorant of any such beings. Nor had he ever heard of any secrets of the ancient world having been preserved in Tibet: the Lamas are only interested in 'The Word of Buddha,' and place no value whatever on ancient history."

The last sentence is the explanation of the fact that we owe to Chinese sources all the exact knowledge we possess of the early history and chronology of Tibet. The dates of Srong-tsan's first mission to the Chinese imperial court in A.D. 634, of his marriage to the Chinese Princess Wên-Ch'êng in 641, of the Tibetan marriage of the second Chinese Princess of Chin-Ch'êng in 710, and of the erection of the famous bilingual treaty monument at Lhasa in 822, are certain fixed points which there is no gainsaying. Colonel Waddell refers to this last monument as a pillar still standing in front of the Jo-k'ang, the great cathedral of Lhasa. It is a pity that no photographs or rubbings of the inscriptions upon it appear to have been taken. Two facsimiles have been already published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (October, 1880), but there is a third side said to contain the names of the Chinese high ministers of state of the period and of those officials who made the sworn treaty, which is still unknown. The author gives a photograph (p. 340) of a neighbouring stone monument

(*doring*), and tells us to note the 'cup-markings' on it, but this is a nineteenth century production of the reign of Chia Ch'ing inscribed with a Chinese edict on smallpox, of much less interest.

Colonel Waddell also refers to the Chinese consort of the celebrated king Srong-tsan, but he strangely makes her start (p. 369) from Peking. She really set out from Ch'ang-an (now Si-an-fu in Shánsi province), which was the capital of China during the T'ang dynasty, and the cavalcade was painted on a scroll-picture at the time by Yen Li-pên, a well-known artist of the first rank. There are one or two other slips which may be noticed for correction in the next edition. The Mongolian city of Urga is nowhere "near the great Lob Nor lake" (p. 27), nor is it to be found marked in the map on p. 41 to which we are referred. Kublai Khan, the founder of the Mongolian dynasty in China, was not "the son of the famous Genghis Khan," as we are told on p. 26, but the grandson, being the son of Tuli, who was the fourth son of Genghis.

The impression of the seal of the Dalai Lama, pronounced to be "in square Indian characters," is printed on its left side on p. 448, as if it were to be read horizontally. The inscription seems to be rather an archaic form of the Tibetan script, and is to be read in vertical columns, passing from left to right, like the Bashpa script of the thirteenth century. It corresponds to the modern formula ཨ་ལ་མ་ལའི་བཤེན་པོ་ལྷ་མོ་འཇམ་དཔལ་ལྷ་མོ་ i.e. Talai bLamai . . . Thamka rgyalva, "The royal seal (generally written *thamga*) of the Dalai Lama." The character at the bottom of the middle of the three columns has not been deciphered.

The book is enriched with several useful appendices on the scientific results of the expedition. Among the fauna of Central Tibet are described three new birds, and a new species of carp was found in the Yamdok lake, which has been named *Gymnocypris waddelli*. The illustrations are mostly of exceeding beauty and interest, notably the Palace of the Dalai Lama on Potala at Lhasa and the Painted

Rock Sculptures at Lhasa, both of which have been reproduced from 'colour photographs' taken from nature by the author.

S. W. B.

SCRAPS FROM A COLLECTOR'S NOTE BOOK, being notes on SOME CHINESE PAINTERS OF THE PRESENT DYNASTY. With appendices on some Old Masters and Art Historians. By FRIEDRICH HIRTH, Professor of Chinese, Columbia University, in the City of New York. (Leiden, Leipzig, and New York, 1905.)

A new interest in Chinese pictorial art is shown by a number of recent publications on the subject, several of which we owe to the pen of Professor Hirth, one of its most appreciative and luminous exponents. He is a collector of pictures as well as a diligent student of the history of Chinese art, and the "scraps now offered are," he says, "in the shape of desultory notes, dotted down by their author a dozen years ago for purposes of reference when forming a collection of scrolls and sketches in the old art city of Yangchou on the Grand Canal near Chinkiang." The collection is now installed in the Royal Museum at Dresden, where a catalogue of the Hirth Collection of *Chinesische Malereien auf Papier und Seide* was issued in February, 1897.

The chief value of the present work is that it is mainly devoted to painters of the present Manchu dynasty, who are generally passed by as hardly worthy of notice. The period is confessedly one of rapid decadence, but as it includes some nine out of every ten scrolls which come into our hands it cannot be entirely neglected. The book becomes thus a most useful supplement to Professor Giles's learned "History of Chinese Pictorial Art," which ends with the close of the Ming dynasty in 1643. Professor Hirth, by the way, discusses at some length (p. 67) the famous wood-cut of a cake of ink labelled "Three in One," which Professor Giles takes to represent an early picture of Christ