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by rope down into a black hole in the rocks for the purpose of reporting on the quality of scorpions and centipedes there at home; and on the next convulsing the official governor by practical jokes and laughable games! Not a problem of modern municipal administration or agricultural welfare but Morse touches and resolves it by Japanese example—and when we close the book it is with something of a sigh at the passing of an age of chivalry and the commencement of commercial commonplace. Japan has no warmer friend than Morse—no more frank and honest admirer. Not merely do we welcome his book as of interest to every student of Dai Nippon geographically; but to-day in particular we hail with pleasure the work of a Boston Anglo-American which cannot fail to assist in uniting for good the progressive forces of England, Japan, and the United States.

POULTNEY BIGELOW.

Correction to Review in January 'Journal' (p. 42), "The Glaciers and Passes of the Karakoram."

We have much pleasure in responding to a request by Mrs. Bullock Workman, that we should correct a mistake which did grave injustice to her headman, the Wazir Abdul Karim. By a confusion which we greatly regret the faults of the "grain basha," who is three times mentioned as "headman" (pp. 154, 168, and 216), and whose name is indexed thus: "—— —, misdeeds of, 128, 154-5, 168, 199, 200-3, 216," were in one sentence ascribed to the real headman, who served their expedition well and faithfully.

AFRICA

The Geology and Mineral Industry of South-West Africa.— Percy Albert Wagner. Union of South Africa, Mines Dept.: Geological Survey Memoir No. 7. Pretoria. 7s. 6d.

"South-West Africa," in the days when it bore the prefix "German," was making extremely rapid progress as a mineral-raising region, being in particular the second diamond-producing area in the world. The present work is mainly a compilation from pre-war publications, and forms a very complete guide to the geology and mineral production of this large territory. The whole account is printed in duplicate in English and Dutch; it is illustrated by a large number of very fine photographic plates; a large geological map (scale 1:2,000,000) and several smaller maps and sections; and includes a full bibliography.

A. M. D.

AMERICA

An Anthropogeographical Study of the Origin of the Eskimo Culture.— H. P. Steensby. Særtryk af *Meddelelser om Grønland*, 53. København: Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri. 1916.

Many different views have been held regarding the descent of the Eskimos, their culture and original home, all which are fully discussed in the opening chapter of this book, but no definite and unimpeachable conclusions have been arrived at. The author's method is to compare the forms of Eskimo culture on the different parts of the domain occupied by them with a view to determining which is the purest type. He uses the word "culture" in the sense of the German *Kultur*, and deals especially with the methods and implements employed in obtaining the necessaries of life, applying to this branch the term "economic culture." After full descriptions of Eskimo life in the northern regions of America, he concludes that the Eskimos were originally settled between the Barren Grounds and the prairie, where their culture was of the

Indian type, and that they migrated thence to the Central Eskimo area, from Coronation Gulf to the Melville Peninsula, where they developed the true Eskimo culture and whence they spread eastwards to Greenland, south-eastwards to Labrador, and westwards to Alaska. No doubt the culture of the Central Eskimos is distinct from that found in other parts, being peculiarly adapted to the severe climate and ice-bound waters of the Arctic archipelago and less exposed to foreign influence. Here only can the snow house be used as a dwelling throughout the winter, and the blubber lamp is accounted for by the scarcity of other fuels, even driftwood. But that all forms of Eskimo culture are derived from this source requires further proof. Why should not the Eskimos have migrated east, north and west from their primitive abode and modified their Indian culture according to the physical conditions of the region to which each section removed? Why, for instance, should not the Labradorian Eskimos have developed their kayak for open sea fishing directly from the Indian birch bark canoe, instead of from the kayak of the Central Eskimos?

The Eskimos of Alaska were naturally more exposed, at least in earlier times, to external influence. Umiaks, Mr. Steensby points out, were used by Asiatics of the North Pacific, and the bladder-dart and double paddle are of Asiatic origin. That the Greenlanders derived their umiak from the west is probable owing to the constant communication along the northern coasts, and in this connection it is to be noted that the central Eskimos know the name, though they have not the boat, which would be of no use to them. Mr. Steensby has written a very full and useful account of the question, though he has not been able to give a complete and perfectly satisfactory solution.

W. A. T.

GENERAL

Modern Whaling and Bear-hunting.— **W. G. Burn Murdoch.** London: Seeley, Service, & Co. 1917. *Illustrations.* 21s. net.

Mr. W. G. Burn Murdoch's 'Modern Whaling and Bear Hunting' might again have had added to its title 'Notes and Sketches by an Artist,' as was the case with his earlier 'From Edinburgh to the Antarctic.' Again we luxuriate in his bracing and easy artist's style, in which the traits of an exceptionally able sporting naturalist are combined with much that is solidly interesting to the geographer among many others. His account of whales and whaling strongly emphasizes the economic and national importance of the world's greatest mammals, beyond the sporting aspect of the subject, and he adds besides much that bears on aspects of physical geography in the many latitudes visited, especially in relation to sea and clouds and colour generally. The North and South Polar Regions he vividly describes in tone and tint and colour in a way quite unequalled by ordinary explorers with even highly developed photography. In this connection we may say at the outset that there is one cause for regret—that there are not many more of the excellent colour sketches, as well as more of the author's clever black and white work in lieu of some of the photographs. (As an instance of Mr. Burn Murdoch's effective way of conveying geographical instruction, we may refer to the pair of sketches on p. 255 and the accompanying statement: "This is the difference between Arctic and Antarctic: in one, Man and his vessels dominate the scene; in the other the great forces of Nature make Man and his works seem very small.") But we suppose such an addition to the cost of production has been impossible during the present prohibitive war conditions. Fortunately