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V. Notices of Books *Things Japanese* by Basil Hall Chamberlain. (Tokyo, the Hakabunsha.)

R. N. C.

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Midrash and entire Midrashic treatises, as the Nūr al Zulun, of which MSS. are in London, Oxford, and Berlin.

The finishing touch of the book was added after the death of Dr. Brüll by Steinschneider, who also wrote the preface. It is regrettable to hear from such a competent authority that the number of writers interested in the subject is rather on the decline than on the increase, and this was one of the reasons why the new edition was undertaken. Let us hope that it will help to revive the enthusiasm for this branch of enquiry.

As to the arrangement of the new edition, which considerably surpasses the first in size, it only contains alterations and corrections added by Zunz himself in his copy, and which are made recognizable both in text and footnotes by square brackets. Entirely new are the indices, which were worked out by a young scholar, Dr. A. Loewenthal, in Berlin, and a concordance of the pages of the two editions. The book is beautifully got up, and the price so low that every one interested in the subject can procure it for himself.

H. HIRSCHFELD.

THINGS JAPANESE by BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN. (Tokyo, the Hakabunsha.)

This second edition of a most useful work contains some twenty new articles, and is provided with an excellent map of the country. The book is rather intended for the use of the globe-trotter, and that valuable customer of the book-maker, the 'general reader,' than for the scholar, and calls for no extended criticism in the pages of this journal. That it is, in the main, the work of a scholar is, however, evident enough, but this fact rather irritates than satisfies the reader, who feels that the author, too often, deals out but a niggard share of the knowledge he possesses. Among the new articles much the most important is Messrs. Aston and Gowland's contribution on Archæology, while the most amusing one is that entitled "English as she is Japped." The articles on 'History

and Mythology,' 'The People,' 'Demoniacal Possession,' 'Tokyo,' 'Ten Ceremonies,' 'Lacquer,' 'Poetry,' and 'Printing' are interesting, and those dealing with the aspects of modern Japan are full of shrewd observations, while quite devoid of the somewhat silly gush which characterizes so much of the more recent literature dealing with Japanese subjects.

MANUAL OF THE SIYIN DIALECT SPOKEN IN THE NORTHERN CHIN HILLS by Captain F. M. RUNDALL, D.S.O., Gurkha Rifles. (Rangoon, Government Press, 1891.) Price, Two Rupees.

This is a most praiseworthy contribution to our knowledge is an entirely unknown region in the province of Burma, and the author deserves our hearty thanks. We are glad to find that a manual of the Baungshē *Dialect* spoken in the Southern Chin Hills has been published by Lieut. Macnabb (it is in fact a different *language*). It appears that the Siyin is one Dialect of a form of speech, which has no leading Dialect, but consists of several, of equal importance (1) Siyun, (2) Nwengal, and (3) Kanhaw. Two other forms of speech are mentioned, (1) Haka, and (2) Tashen, and are pronounced to differ so materially as to be quite different languages. Here then we have revealed to us a group of four languages previously totally unknown, but in which communication is held by British officers with subject races.

The geographical position of these tribes is as follows:

A line drawn from Mandalay to Chittagong passes almost through the Chin Hills. In the North they are bounded by the Manipūr Valley, on the East by the Kubo Kalē, Myillha, and Yan valleys, on the South by the Arakan Hill tracts, on the West by the Lushai Hills. The District occupied by the Siyin is roughly between N. Lat. 23°·10 and 23°·25, and E. Long. 93°·45 and 94·5. The highest elevation is about 8800 feet above sea-level, but the average height of the range is about 5000 feet.