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Author(s): O. J. R. H.

Review by: O. J. R. H.

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the folding and deposition, the dislocations and basin-formations of the land. Most of the profiles are on the scale of 1:200,000, with five-fold vertical exaggeration; several on the scale of 1:100,000. The detached eastern section "From Kilia on the Black Sea to the Bosphorus" is on the scale of 1:50,000. The very complete definition of the strata by symbols indicates the species of rock; the colour, in harmony with the map; and the formation. The description is in Servian and German.

Of especial interest to geographers and cartographers is the large sheet devoted to the history of the development of the cartographical representation of the Balkan peninsula. It contains twelve facsimiles of general maps, ranging from Abraham Ortelius (sixteenth century) down to the one in Stieler's Hand-atlas, dating from the middle of the nineteenth century. Besides the above, maps interesting on account of their authorship are those of Sanson (1692) and of Buache (1744). They well illustrate the tenacity of the geographical conception that the Dinaric range (in Croatia and Bosnia), the Sardagh in Old Servia, and the Balkan (in Bulgaria) constituted one continuous mountain chain. A small map giving a synopsis of the learned author's travels forms the conclusion of the important work, the accompanying text of which is likewise in part being set up in type.

THE NEAREST EAST—TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

'Through the Lands of the Serb.' By Mary E. Durham. Edward Arnold. 1904. Pp. ix., 345. *With a Map.*

'The Balkans from Within.' By Reginald Wyon. Finch & Co. 1904. Pp. xviii., 475. *With Two Maps.*

The scope of these two admirable volumes is not wholly the same; their purposes are wholly dissimilar. Yet inasmuch as from the geographical standpoint they have the same interest, it is justifiable and instructive to consider them together. Mr. Wyon covers the whole ground from the Golden Horn to the Montenegrin border; he travelled, under the fullest protection that could be afforded him, as a correspondent; those responsible for his safety in the several countries he visited having the proper conception of the value of a hair of his head. Miss Durham, on the other hand, adventured herself in Servia and Montenegro, and even Albania, trusting to her sex and to the application of the proverbial *noblesse oblige*. In part of her travels, moreover, ignorance was bliss; for there can be no doubt that she adventured more dangerously than she knew. Certainly the woman traveller was accepted where no ordinary male would have made his way unscathed. Her journey as such is the more praiseworthy.

Mr. Wyon was, of course, intent on bloodshed, on wars and rumours of wars; and though in his series of vivid sketches of things seen the political aspect of his subject is not often insisted upon, it is always present to the mind. Nor is this aspect wholly neglected by Miss Durham. Setting aside political considerations, so to write, in the concrete form, a question of abstract political geography is forced upon the imagination by both these books. We see in the mind's eye the tourist who would become a traveller casting all his ambitions from him as he tries to enter Belgrade in the same casual manner in which he would alight at the Gare du Nord. The line of demarcation here, between the West and the nearest East, is the most remarkable unnatural line which the political geographer has to draw. Under different conditions (say, the existence of a strong coherent power in Greece) it would never have been drawn. But being drawn, it preserves, and will long preserve (to judge from the books before us), this wonderful picture of races in infancy—of men who are of full age in childhood and children in manhood, whose abstract

gods are friendship and enmity. We find Mr. Wyon writing of "a European" as distinct from the native of this region. It is to him, the native, that both writers devote their chief attention, viewing them under opposite conditions, but arriving at precisely similar conclusions. The geographical interest of both books centres upon the Albanian and the Montenegrin.

The volumes are well illustrated, but the illustrations, like the text, are concerned with the people rather than the physical attributes of the country. Both, however, have a few striking word-pictures of the little-known scenic wonders of the region; and how far the travellers were at times fulfilling the rôle of explorers may be gathered from the frequency with which they were dependent for knowledge of a journey's length on the native estimate in hours, which generally sadly overestimated the capacity of the foreigner. Mr. Wyon was once wholly lost in the Rilo mountains. Miss Durham's excellent descriptions of the towns she visited, and her archaeological notes and drawings, are noteworthy features of her work.

O. J. R. H.

ASIA.

PERSIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

'The Birds of Eastern Persia: Ornithological Results of an Excursion made in 1898.'
By G. N. Zarudnyi. St. Petersburg: 1903. (Memoirs of the Russian Geographical Society, for General Geography, vol. xxxvi. part 2; Russian.)

The geographical portion of this journey was described in the first part of the same volume of the 'Memoirs,' as well as in a communication to the Memoirs of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences (x., No. 1); while the birds of the Transcasian region were described by the same author in 'Materials for the Knowledge of the Flora and the Fauna of Russia,' part ii. In the present work the learned ornithologist gives the description of the species of birds which he met, and of which he brought specimens. Only a few species have been added on the authority of Dr. Blanford ('Eastern Persia,' vol. ii.) and Dr. Aitchison ('The Zoology of the Afghan Delimitation Commission'). N. Zarudnyi considers that it would be premature to draw any general conclusions concerning the bird fauna of Persia, in connection with other portions of the Iran plateau and the Turan lowlands, so long as large portions of Afghanistan and Central Persia remain unexplored; he therefore simply describes the 421 species of birds which are known from Eastern Persia, giving notes about their habits and the localities they were found in, and showing their distribution over six districts, into which he subdivides Eastern Persia.

KOREA.

'Korea.' By Angus Hamilton. London: Heinemann. 1904.

This is a book full of interest. The journeys made by the author include a trip to the German mines at Tongkoku, and another to the Diamond mountains, of which Mrs. Bishop has written an earlier description, and add but little to our geographical knowledge of Korea. But the charm of the book lies especially in the freshness of treatment and fulness of detail with which each subject is presented, and in the opportune information regarding the political situation in Korea almost up to the date of the outbreak of the war between Russia and Japan. The varying influence of Russia and Japan, the absence of British traders (though British manufactures had through Japanese pedlars secured a commanding position before Korea was opened by treaty to trade), the value of the harbours, the beauty of the land, and the love of its people for natural beauties, are each in turn represented by a happy pen supported by excellent illustrations. At the same time

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