
Review: African Geography

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naturalist ; he takes pleasure in telling a story of the chase, and tells it well, but he is also a keen observer and communicates plentiful results of his observations. The illustrations are not only from photographs, but from sketches also, often of the slightest character, but always full of life.

'The Provinces of China.' (Shanghai: *National Review Office*. 1910. Pp. 188. *Maps*.) This forms a useful book of geographical reference in brief for China. It contains a geographical and economic notice of each province with its chief towns, prefaced by a general survey, with statistics. At the end there are a long bibliography, a notice on the government of China, and full indices of places and products. It appears that the volume forms the 'National Review Annual' for 1910.

AFRICA.

WILD LIFE IN EAST AFRICA.

'Camera Adventures in the African Wilds.' By A. Radclyffe Dugmore, F.R.G.S. With Map and Reproduction of numerous Photographs from Life by the Author. London: William Heinemann, 1910. *Price 30s. net.*

The sport of stalking wild animals, not for the purpose of slaughter, nor to secure trophies, but to photograph them as they live their daily (and nightly) life has, of late, become popular. It has all the excitement, and more, that attaches to the lower branch of the profession, and requires a steadier nerve and a higher type of fortitude. In this book, Mr. Dugmore gives us the spoils obtained in a four months' expedition in British East Africa, and a study of his photographs should convince the most sceptical that hunting with the camera is the highest form of sport possible. The photographs taken when the animals depicted are stationary appear to us more true than those which show them in action. These last have sometimes the "unnatural" effect commonly seen in photographs of horses or athletes jumping over hurdles, etc.—"unnatural" inasmuch as the photographs stereotype the (usually very ungraceful) attitude of a second, an attitude which the eye does not register. This criticism is not altogether just; nothing more vigorous and "life-like" could be desired than, for example, the photograph (opposite p. 8) of the rhinoceros charging the author and his companion. As an instance of the beauty of the "still" (but not dead) life photographs we may note that of the zebra in the bed of the Olgerei river. Mr. Dugmore's text is a valuable complement to his photographs. He writes with informed enthusiasm, and makes a really fascinating story of his character studies of various animals. His warning concerning the danger of generalizations give food for reflection. It should be added that not all the photographs are of animals, a few depict landscape—such as the beautiful view (opposite p. 140) on the banks of the Guaso Nyiro: others give glimpses of the snow-clad heights of Kenya and Kilimanjaro. There are also notes on and photographs of the Wa-Kikuyu. We feel that all nature-lovers are indebted to Mr. Dugmore for making available, in such attractive form, the results of his painstaking and often perilous investigations into the life-history of the larger fauna of East Africa.

F. R. C.

AFRICAN GEOGRAPHY.

'Atlante d'Africa: 36 Tavole Colorate con 200 Pagine di Testo.' By Prof. Arcangelo Ghisleri. Bergamo: 1909. *25 lire.*

In a very full sub-title it is explained that this is a combination, the first of its kind, of a complete set of maps of Africa and accompanying texts of geographical, economic, and statistical data, illustrated by 160 inset additional maps of

topographical details based on the last results of exploration ; and, further, that it is intended as a work of reference for traders, politicians, military circles, schools, and all educated classes. This is certainly an ambitious programme, which, however, it will be admitted is largely fulfilled, and for which the editor claims that its sterling value will be recognized by the intelligent observer, thanks to the mutual combination of maps and explanatory texts for the whole continents. Herein, in fact, consists its unique character, since although there are numerous political sections—British, French, German—treated somewhat in the same way, this is the only attempt yet made to cover the whole ground in a single volume. That such a work should be produced by an Italian, Italy having so little interest in the continent, is naturally regarded as a source of legitimate pride and pleasure, even though the outcome may not be everything that could be desired. To avoid the inconvenience of sectional treatment, with different scales and sizes, as by other cartographers, although the ‘Atlante’ gives three general maps—physical, political, economic—care has been further taken to distribute the material in such a way as to make each map correspond with some one political or geographical unity. It thus comes to form with the accompanying text what may be called a summary monograph, but in all respects complete, of the region in question. Each such region, however desert and generally overlooked, is represented on the fundamental scale of 1 : 8,000,000, and all the maps, whether large or small, stand in continuous relation to this scale.

A first consideration to present itself was of course the difficult and indeed scarcely soluble questions of the transcription and orthography of geographical terms. And here the ‘Atlante’ can scarcely be said to be more successful or consistent than other attempts at uniformity. It aims at such uniformity by renouncing the ambition to systematize the spelling and transcription of African names, and pursues an independent course without, however, avoiding inconsistencies. Thus it claims above all to have retained those geographical terms which have acquired the general right of citizenship, adopting in the several regions the *official orthography of the dominant European powers* (*italics* by the editor). One would suppose that *Capetown* came within this category ; yet despite the sensible rule here laid down, for it is substituted the awkward *Città del Capo*, awkward even for an Italian.

Amongst the slips and errors inevitable in such a production may be noticed the following for correction in future editions : The Sakalavas of the west coast of Madagascar are stated to be “Bantus ;” but they speak a pure Malayo-Polynesian language, and are no more Bantus than any of their neighbours.

Cust’s exploded *Nuba-Fulah* linguistic family is revived. Such a combination is impossible, *Nuba* being a negro and *Fulah* a Hamitic form of speech.

The *Ghez* said to be in Ethiopia is extinct and now replaced by Tigré and Amharic, and the statement about the languages on the east coast beginning with the particle *ki* is misleading. It is true only of a few Bantu tongues south of Mombasa.

The southern section of the Cape to Cairo railway is made on Map 23 to stop at the Victoria falls of the Zambezi, whereas it has for some time been continued to the borders of the Belgian Congo.

The boundaries and divisions of the political territories are generally given correctly. But there are exceptions, such as the German Kamerun, and North-West Rhodesia. The French district of Kanem, which lies on the north-east side of Lake Chad, has been shifted eastwards, so that it encroaches on a large part of Wadai.

Note also that the Abyssinian section of Fra Mauro’s map of 1459, reproduced

on p. 71, is not a true facsimile, though the draughtsman has succeeded in giving an excellent idea of the style of the original. A. H. KEANE.

THE EASTERN CONGO BASIN.

'Nel Paese dei Bango.' By Maurizio Piscicelli. Naples. [N.d.] 12 lire.

This is not a book of travel in the ordinary sense, or of exploration in any sense, but merely the reproduction of a diary kept by the author during his residence of three years (1903-5) in the Congo Free State. Being written before the cession of Congoland to Belgium, it can now claim little more than an historic interest. But that interest is in some respects very considerable, and out of all proportion with the small area covered. This area is mainly confined to the Ingiri district south-west of Lake Tanganyika, where Sig. Piscicelli spent most of his time as a Congo official amongst the dominant BANGO-BANGO people.

As in most diaries, much repetition is involved, and this makes some parts rather tedious reading. But these need not detain the reader, and in any case are amply compensated by some really attractive descriptive matter. At the very opening the author plunges *in medias res*, and we are soon entangled in a scathing exposure of the strange vagaries of priests and nuns in the Tanganyika region.

Reference is made to a curious factor in the social relations of the natives with their European masters. This is the so-called *baruwa*, or "letter," which is really a kind of passport given for his protection to any member of a tribe wishing to go on his travels, and of which very extensive use is made. It consists of a sheet of notepaper or any scrap of paper at hand, on which is written any nonsense under the name of the bearer, which is the essential point. A specimen is given which ran thus: "The here-named Ndeke is worrying me for the last hour for a baruwa. I don't know him, but I herewith certify that if he is no exception to his fellows he drinks hard." Then follows an illegible signature, date March 7, 1896, and the said Ndeke found this an all-sufficient pass to travel in safety for seven years. On the general question of the treatment of the natives by the white men there are some instructive remarks, but it would be out of place to discuss them here.

It appears that the *muafi* ordeal, so widespread throughout Negroland, prevailed also till recently in the Ingiri district, where it was regarded as efficacious, especially against the sinister glance of the evil eye. The process is summary, as thus: Two women, sisters of a certain chief, are accused of possessing the evil eye, the charge being made in consequence of the death of many little children in the chief's village, and are condemned to the judgment of the *muafi*, a bitter extract from certain poisonous herbs. The verdict is that one dies and is therefore guilty, while the other recovers and is innocent. Another case: A healthy young woman, strong and desirable, has many wooers, but is eventually married to the chief of a certain village. But the day she enters it two children die, so she must be possessed, and has to submit to the ordeal. Thereupon she sickens, but does not die, so is declared to be not quite innocent, and while the suitors are clamouring for the return of their offerings, the husband obtains her freedom by the payment of ten fowls. With him she lives several years and has four children, but, strange to say, all die. Thus fresh complications arise, and the people are perhaps not sorry that the *muafi* ordeal was abolished as a court of justice in 1904, and all cases under its jurisdiction referred to the tribunal at Stanleyville.

Besides numerous photographic reproductions, some showing the effects of trypanosomiasis (the sleeping sickness), there is one large map of the region