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the express condition that their pupils be taught "no reading and writing that might lead to an understanding of any literary European tongue."

A. H. K.

ERITREA.

In Africa: *Lettere dall' Eritrea.* Parte Prima. "Lungo l'Anseba e sull' altipiano Abissino." By Giotto Dainelli. *With 152 Illustrations.* Bergamo: 1908.

This volume forms one of a series of monographs issued by the *Istituto d'Arti Grafiche* of Bergamo, and dealing with travels in various parts of the world. The author and three friends visited Asmara in 1905-06, for the purpose of attending the Colonial Congress at that place. But while most of those who took part in the Congress returned home after a very brief sojourn in Eritrea, Dainelli and his friends travelled from one end of the colony to the other. It was arranged that ethnography, geology, and geography should be properly looked after, and observations recorded by each member of the party. But we are bound to say that there are very few observations of a comprehensive or detailed character recorded in the pages of the present work. It consists of letters written at short intervals from the various halting places *en route*, and though the incidents of travel are told pleasantly enough, there is no attempt at an elaboration of the subject, which would convey an exhaustive idea of the country and its possibilities, or of the economic or other success that has so far attended this Italian experiment in colonization. We presume, however, there may be another volume forthcoming, dealing with the concluding part of the tour. From a descriptive point of view the present work is good enough, and its value in this respect is certainly enhanced by admirable printing of the photographic views. Small as they are, they are reproduced with great clearness on excellent paper, a feature due, no doubt, to the artistic resources of the Institute under whose auspices the work is produced.

AMERICA.

THE MYSTERY OF THE PILCOMAYO.

'The River Pilcomayo from its Discharge into the River Paraguay to Parallel 22° S.'
By Gunnar Lange. Buenos Aires: Press of the Argentine Meteorological Office.
1906.

From its first discovery the Pilcomayo has been regarded as a possible means of communication between the mining region of Bolivia and the great waterways of the Argentine. Gathering its waters from the mountains of south-eastern Bolivia, it enters the great central plain of South America as a majestic river, and it is as a broad navigable stream that it unites its forces with the Paraguay: but every attempt to follow its course between these points has been foiled by the great morass, the Estero Patiño, which interrupts its course for some 50 miles, where even in the rainy season there is insufficient water to float the shallowest craft.

The author ascended the river when it was exceptionally low, and worked in connection with a land detachment, which marched at a little distance from the right bank. He found a large portion of the swamp sufficiently firm to enable him to explore it on foot. Ultimately, dragging his boats through stretches of shallow water and over intervening tracts of dry ground, he reached the upper river, and continued his journey as far as the point where the river ceases to form the Argentine frontier with Bolivia. He has embodied the result of his survey in seven maps on a scale of 1:100,000 (1·58 miles to the inch), and a general map of 1:600,000 (9·47 miles to the inch), with numerous transverse and longitudinal sections. He has thus enabled us to follow the fortunes of the Pilcomayo from