

BOOK REVIEW

"The Tropics: their Resources, People and Future." By C. R. Enock, C. E., F. R. G. S. Grant Richards, Ltd. London. 16/0 net.

The Author of this admirable and most instructive volume is already well known as the writer of "The Andes and the Amazon," "The Great Pacific Coast" and other works. His own extensive travels enable him to speak with a certain degree of personal knowledge of many of the numerous countries of which he writes. Some idea of the extent of the field which this single book covers may be gained by remembering that it purports to be "a description of the Tropical Lands of Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Australasia and the Pacific; their natural products, scenery, inhabitants and industries, and the possibilities of their future development." This is a stupendous task for any one man to undertake; yet we are not sure that his readers will agree with us that Mr. Enock has done it as well as possible. His style, too, is good and interesting, and he carries his readers along with him almost as if he were writing a novel or a tale of travel and adventure. The 64 illustrations and maps which are freely distributed throughout the volume, though naturally not all of equal excellence and importance, add very much to the value of the work.

Mr. Enock is animated by a noble purpose in writing this book. His aim is to originate a new philanthropic Science, that of "Constructive Human Geography," or the science of corporate living on the Earth. This Science "will seek the way by which the reaction or adjustment of mankind to its topographical and economic environment may be brought about. . . . It finds the economic and industrial life like the world at variance with its surroundings." Hence the new Science aims at surveying, in the first place, the present conditions of the life of the peoples of the world and investigating the natural resources, human and material, of the various countries in which they live. Then the constructive part of the Science endeavours to discover "how a balance may be brought about between these natural resources . . . of the globe and the human element which inhabits it." In this matter ethics and humanity are concerned even more deeply than commerce and economics. The study of these matters should prevent any one section of the human race from exploiting a people inferior to itself in material strength or degree of civilisation, and to encourage all to work together for their common advantage thus securing justice for all, and making it evident that, even on the lowest ground, honest and fair play are more profitable than the policy so generally pursued now-a-days of treating the "lower races" as existing only for the advantage of the "higher." Referring to this latter point our author well says: "We have generally regarded many of the tropical peoples as barbarous. But barbarities have been committed during the War by one of the most advanced and Christian nations—the Germans—such as the world has probably never witnessed among Western people, or west of Suez. On the other hand, the coloured troops or adherents of Britain and

France have comported themselves with dignity and restraint. More! From India, from Fiji, from Zanzibar, from the remote Moslem dependency of Bornu in the heart of Darkest Africa, have come voices spontaneously raised in indignation of Teutonic barbarity." (p. xxiii.)

All the chapters in the book are full of information, generally up to date in all important particulars. The account of Africa between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn is particularly full and good. The same may be said of tropical America, where the description given of many regions still but slightly known to the world at large will be read with great interest. This will be deservedly increased by the author's evident rare desire to give a fair and impartial account of the character and capabilities of the various Native Races of whom he speaks, and the details which he gives of their past civilisation in some cases. The chapters on Arabia are of much value. India is much better known, and hence it was not necessary to go into such full details as in regard to other Eastern lands, especially as only the southern half of the country lies within the tropics. It is hardly fair to say that the country is kept "as a preserve for the manufacturing output of Lancashire," but any tendency in this direction should be checked. Mr. Enock, though stating the Indian assertion that famines have been more prevalent in India since British rule began there than they had previously been, does not accept such an erroneous view. He does full justice to the energetic measures in relief works and the extension of irrigation and railway communication taken by the Government to counteract the causes of famines and their deadly effects. Yet he thinks that "the economic situation of India . . . is probably a contributing factor." We doubt this, but are led to enquire whether the encouragement given to devoting much of the most fertile and best irrigated land in the country to the cultivation of opium had or had not anything to do with the recurrence of famines. It is a matter for thankfulness that at any rate the opium trade with China is now at an end. May its growth soon be abolished in India altogether!

The concluding Chapter on "The Future of the Tropics" is one of the most important in the book. We cannot deal at all adequately with it here, but we trust it will be carefully studied by all who have at heart the happiness of their fellow-creatures. The great question regarding the Tropics is: "Are the intelligent communities into whose hands the control of the backward coloured nations has been given doing all that modern intelligence would suggest and modern duty demand towards the development of these great resources and the advancement of the native people of tropical lands?" (p. 431.) It is impossible to answer this question in the affirmative as yet, but the spread of Missionary work is bringing nearer every day the prospect of justice being done to the coloured races and their religious, mental and moral elevation. The more truly the Christian Faith pervades the breasts of men of more civilised nations, the more forcibly will public opinion urge the abolition of all oppression of coloured peoples and their fair and humane treatment. True Christianity alone can overcome men's natural selfishness and give civilised nations a nobler aim than that of making money out of the sufferings of those committed to their charge.

"When we come to a consideration of the part which missionary work," says Mr. Enock, "has played in the progress of the tropics, our first consideration must be one of gratitude and appreciation of the noble work carried out, whatever 'economic' criticism may be directed against it. These services to mankind can never be sufficiently esteemed,

nor can they be adjudged by the immediate results apparent therefrom. Missionaries, moreover, have carried, not only spiritual but often economic light to the heathen of the torrid zone, and in addition they have done no mean exploratory and geographical work. . . . In British Africa the missionary has done magnificent work in regard to such matters as the 'drink traffic,' forced labour, the alienation of native lands and so forth, matters which even modern British (and Liberal) governments have been obliged to compromise with. It may be, however, that in the future the economic side of missionary work will have to be strongly developed, if the movement is to hold its own," (pp. 446, 447). A footnote points out that the "Annual British contributions to Foreign Missionary work amount to £1,800,000; expenditure in intoxicating liquors to £163,000,000."

The value of the book is materially increased by a full and carefully compiled Index. As a source of information upon all matters, connected with the tropics this work cannot easily be surpassed.

It may seem ungrateful, when so much is excellent, to point to a few slight errors, in themselves of no great consequence. It is incorrect, for instance, to identify "Cush" of the Hebrew of Isaiah xviii, 1, with the modern Abyssinia, as is done in p. 211. "Cush" in that passage, represents the island of Meroë, as it was called by the Greeks. Again, it is true that "Singapore" means "the city of the lion," as is stated in p. 279, but it is a *Hindi*, not a Malay word. Doubtless it did not come within the purpose of the book, in speaking of Khartum (p. 225) to call attention to the injustice of excluding Christian teaching from the College—"the educational centre of the Soudan"—erected in memory of the great Christian hero Gordon, to whom the city owes so much.

W. ST. CLAIR TISDALL.

Life of Abul Hamid. By Sir Edwin Pears. London: Constable. 1917. 365 pp. 6/ net.

Inside Constantinople During the Dardanelles Expedition. By Lewis Einstein. London: John Murray. 1917. 291 pp. 6/ net.

The Life of Abdul Hamid has been included in the *Makers of the Nineteenth Century Series* on the principle that demolition is sometimes a necessary part of construction. The information as to religion and ethnography is second hand and the mention of commentaries on the Koran by the immediate followers of the Prophet does not suggest accurate research; but the author has used his opportunities to give us a readable sketch of the greatest anachronism in the nineteenth century, and has brought to light the main features of his career and its results.

Abdul Hamid was the son of an Armenian mother, brought up in dread of the bowstring, with no effective education till he succeeded his demented brother, Murad, in 1876. He had visited Paris once in 1867, but he could converse in no language save Turkish and after his accession to the throne of Turkey he remained a self-made prisoner in his new palace of Yeldiz, a dwelling, a fortress and a suburb of Constantinople in one. He was neither luxurious nor dissolute in his private life; but real friendship he seems never to have known. He was covetous, suspicious and bent upon making himself an absolute ruler. An ignorant, isolated man, his chief idea of rule was to act upon the reports of his innumerable spies, whose journals were daily submitted to him and accumulated into libraries. The resultant line of