

# WILEY



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Review: Egypt and the Sudan

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of the meanings of native titles might be more freely given, and the language section improved generally. The historical sketch is somewhat too official in tone, justice being scarcely done to the work of the missionaries. We can, for instance, find no mention of Alexander Mackay, to whom Uganda owes as much as to any one man. A better plan than that followed would be to collect all the historical matter into one narrative. It is now scattered over six chapters. Also a better map might well be given. Regions, *e.g.* Buddu, frequently mentioned in the text, do not appear on the map, nor are the Murchison falls marked. These suggestions must not be taken as depreciatory of the handbook as it stands; it is the best concise account of Uganda yet published, and, in sober language, tells the tale of as marvellous a development of an African race and country as has ever been seen.

F. R. C.

#### THE CONGO STATE.

*Histoire de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo.* Par Fritz Masoin. Namur: Imprimerie Picard-Balon. Vol. 1, 1912; vol. 2, 1913.

As the result of four years' study of the question—a study begun, the author assures us, with an open mind, Monsieur Masoin has come to the conclusion that throughout his career as sovereign of the *Etat Indépendant du Congo*, Leopold II. was animated by the loftiest motives; that the campaign against the State was engineered by men animated by the most ignoble motives, and that the evil which many of the Protestant missionaries in the Congo have done, "the systematic vilification which has filled their apostolate," etc., is not compensated for by the results obtained by some of their colleagues who were devout and upright men. It will be seen that these volumes do not contain that impartial history of the Congo State which is sadly needed. But we heartily agree with Monsieur Masoin in his appeal to Belgium to give of her best to the country for which she has accepted responsibility.

The appendices contain much useful information. They include a list of explorers who crossed Central Africa from ocean to ocean during the nineteenth century; the nationality, the points of departure and arrival, and the date of the journey being given in each case. This list begins with the names of Livingstone, Cameron, and Stanley. Tables of the Belgian Expeditions to Lake Tanganyika during 1878–1882, and of the expeditions sent out by the *Société anti-Esclavagiste* in 1890–1893, are given, and the treaties and conventions concluded by the Congo State are enumerated.

No map accompanies the volume, nor is there any systematic attempt to set forth the geographical factors which underlie the story of the Congo.

F. R. C.

#### EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

'*Egypt in Transition.*' By Sidney Low. Introduction by the Earl of Cromer. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1914. 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Sidney Low's object in writing this book was, he tells us, to convey some insight into the political, social, and administrative conditions of Egypt and the Sudan at the close of Lord Cromer's tenure of office as British Agent at Cairo. That object has been attained, and more than attained, for in most respects the story has been brought down to the close of 1913. The story itself is told in a series of vivid, arrestive chapters, which leave clear-cut pictures both of land and people. Mr. Low is not, we imagine, a scientific geographer, but he is fully conscious of the part which geographical factors play in the history of

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every country. No writer on Egypt and the Sudan could indeed make an intelligible book who ignored those factors; it is to Mr. Low's credit that he frankly frames his studies in a geographical, or rather hydrographical, setting, and insists on his readers gaining a grasp of the *régime* of the Nile. Though one or two statements regarding the Nile system call for correction in subsequent editions, they do not affect the accuracy of the conclusions respecting irrigation problems. There is merit, too, in the plan followed of going with rather than against the stream. That is, we are taken first to the Sudan and thence trace the Nile downwards to Upper Egypt and the Delta. The magic and mystery of the river itself are shown in word-pictures of much beauty. The finest chapters are, however, those in which the work of the British in the Sudan is described. They will enable many people to realize better than they have hitherto been able to do precisely what has been achieved and how much remains to be done.

The book has a good index and some portraits; the latter we would willingly exchange for a map.

F. R. C.

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'Further Reminiscences of a South African Pioneer.' By W. C. Scully. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1913. Pp. 384. *Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) This volume will probably be acknowledged by most readers to reach a higher standard of public interest than did its predecessor, and will render a promised third volume, to deal with the period of the war in South Africa, the more welcome. Here the writer describes very vividly his travels and official labours in South Africa before that period, and the book contains instructive incidental references to climatic and other natural conditions, to natural history and to the native peoples in various parts of the country. There are a few valuable topographical photographs.

### AMERICA.

'Colombia.' By P. J. Eden. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1913. Pp. xxiv., 312. *Maps and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) The "South American Series" receives in this volume an addition well up to its standard. Apart from the bare description of the country, there is plenty to interest the geographer here: for example, the railway communications of Colombia, based as they are largely on the river Magdalena as a central artery, are closely studied—with results, it may be said, not to their advantage as regards the manner in which they have been laid out and organized. The economic and political conditions of the country do not present that favourable record which is to be found in some other volumes of the series, but, subject to revision of political conditions, the writer believes there is material in Colombia and among its people for the history of a prosperous future.

'A Church in the Wilds.' By W. Barbrooke Grubb. (London: Seeley, Service. 1914. Pp. 287. *Maps and Illustrations*. 5s.) The writer of this book established the work of the South American Mission among the natives of the Paraguayan Chaco, and he travelled widely over unexplored ways in that region. He is here concerned to describe not so much the region itself as its inhabitants and his relations with them, but many particulars about this difficult country emerge. As to his own work, it may be permitted to remark upon his wide view as to the propriety of leaving unaltered the native practices and habits of life so far as they are not strictly incompatible with Christian teaching.