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Review

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AFRICA.

THE REGIONS EAST OF LAKE CHAD.

'Au Tchad. Trois ans chez les Senoussistes, les Ouaddaïens et les Kirdis.' By Captain Cornet. 2nd Edition. Paris: Librairie Plon. 1910. 4 *frs*.

Captain Cornet, of the French Colonial Infantry, spent three years, 1905-7, in the regions north and east of Lake Chad, taking part in expeditions into Wadai, Borku, and Ennedi. The geographical and the political results of these expeditions have already been made known, but in this volume the author adds much valuable additional information concerning this borderland between the Sahara and the Central Sudan. A large part of the book is a reprint from his journal. It shows the captain to be a keen and sympathetic observer of nature and especially of mankind. There is so little authentic and easily accessible information concerning Borku and Ennedi, and of the earlier phases of the French penetration of the Central Sudan that his work is specially welcome. It enables the reader to get a just idea of the character of the country and of the mentality of its inhabitants. Moreover, the occupation of Borku by the French is a preliminary to the occupation of Tibesti, the most important of the still unknown regions of Africa—a subject on which Captain Cornet has instructive comments. The Senussi power he thought overrated, an opinion which subsequent events have seemed to confirm. The book contains some good illustrations and a couple of sketch-maps.

'Biskra, Sidi-Okba and the Desert.' By J. C. Hyam. (Algiers: Hyam. 1910. Pp. xii., 103. *Maps and Illustrations*.) Quite a useful handbook, "got up" according to rather a peculiar standard of taste. A fair outline map of Algeria contrasts favourably with some plans which need the microscope. The ease and rapidity of travel in Algeria so far as the railway extends is remarkable. These have only to be widely understood bring the holiday-maker in numbers to the many interests of the Saharan fringe.

'English-Amharic Vocabulary.' By C. H. Armbruster. (Cambridge: University Press. 1910. Pp. xxviii., 504. 15s.) We quote the title on the cover, as more closely describing the volume than does the 'Initia Amharica' of the title-page. The latter is applied to the whole series of three volumes, of which the present is the second; the first was a grammar, the third will be an Amharic-English vocabulary. The present volume contains a quotation from the first on phonology, which serves as an introduction to the long series of signs necessary to the extremely difficult task of rendering the pronunciation of Amharic in our script.

AMERICA.

THE NEGRO QUESTION.

'The Negro in the New World.' By Sir Harry H. Johnston. With 390 Illustrations, chiefly by the Author, and several maps by Mr. J. W. Addison, R.G.S. London: Methuen. 1910. 21s. *net*.

Despite its comprehensive character, the title of this remarkable monograph on the negro problem in the New World scarcely does justice to the subject, and, indeed, is far from covering the whole ground. Apart from a marked bias in favour of the black populations the treatment of the question as a whole may be taken as fairly adequate from the historic, social, and economic points of view. In fact nothing could be more satisfactory than the vivid picture here drawn of the historic and social conditions, for instance, in Cuba, Hispaniola, and Brazil.