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Review: The Heart of Central Africa

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in the text, and by 40 separate plates, some idea of the comprehensive scope of the work will be obtained.

A critical examination of the contents of the volumes cannot be undertaken here, but special attention may be drawn to Dr. Verneau's section. The very vexed question as to the origin and affinities of the Abyssinian peoples is dealt with in a lucid manner, Dr. Verneau's theses being based on the measurements of over a hundred persons by Dr. Goffin. Dr. Verneau contends that there can be identified three distinct Abyssinian types, and of these types one, the Amhara or Ethiopian type, "had its origin in the region where it to-day continues to flourish, for if nothing authorizes us to make it come from Egypt, nothing permits us to suppose that it arrived from Asia" (vol. 11, p. 261). The second part of Dr. Verneau's section deals attractively with the dress, food, home-life, arts, and religion of the Abyssinians.

F. R. C.

UGANDA AND THE SUDAN.

'Lake Victoria to Khartoum: with Rifle and Camera.' By Captain F. A. Dickinson, D.C.L.I., F.R.G.S., with an introduction by the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, and numerous illustrations from photographs taken by the author. London: John Lane. 1909. 12s. 6d. net.

This agreeable description of an interesting journey, like the author's former work 'Big Game Shooting on the Equator,' appeals no doubt more strongly to the sporting traveller than to the geographer, yet for the latter there is much of interest. The author commanded Mr. Churchill's escort from Uganda to Gondokoro, and beyond this place he accompanied the Under-Secretary for the Colonies as a guest to Khartum and Omdurman. The journey was most agreeable. Mr. Churchill found Captain Dickinson an ideal companion and guide, whilst the captain testifies to Mr. Churchill's excellence as a shot. "He would make a 'top-hole' shot if he had the time to spare." The route followed was from Victoria Nyanza, or say Bombo, the headquarters of the 4th Battalion King's African Rifles, passing between the Myanja and Lugogo rivers to Masindi, where there is a great junction of highways; thence through the great Budonga forest, the game reserve being on the one side of the road, to Lake Albert, where at Butiaba there is a natural haven for the Nile flotilla. The journey down the river is well described and worthy of study by intending travellers, but it need not in this notice be further mentioned.

On his return journey Captain Dickinson crossed the Nile into the Lado Enclave, hitherto leased to the Belgians or to King Leopold, but which is eventually to be taken over by the Sudan Government. The few pages describing this *détour* into the Congo mountains form, from a geographical point of view, the most interesting part of the book. This is well got up, and liberally illustrated, and there is an index, which might with advantage have been more full. There is no map; a serious defect for readers whose knowledge of the geography of these parts is elementary.

W. BROADFOOT.

THE HEART OF CENTRAL AFRICA.

'Ins Innerste Afrika.' By Adolf Friederich, Herzog zu Mecklenberg. Leipzig: Klinkhardt & Biermann. 1909. Pp. vii.-xi. and 1-476. With 240 *Illustrations* and 2 *Maps*. Price 14m.

This volume contains a general account of the Duke of Mecklenberg's travels in German East Africa and the Congo Free State during 1907-1908. The expedition, which has been frequently referred to in the *Journal*, was a very important one, and provided with all sorts of apparatus for scientific work, including universal instruments, phototheodolites, deviation-magnetometers, twenty-six loads

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of botanical paper, phonograph and rolls for native languages, forty loads of medical stores with microscopes and reagents, twelve loads of photographic plates, gramophone, etc., etc. These loads alone amounted to over seven hundred, and, as the personal baggage and other stores were on a similar scale, no less than two thousand porters were required.

The Duke of Mecklenburg was accompanied by nine other Europeans, namely, Lieut. von Wiese und Kaisers Waldau (caravan leader and meteorologist), Lieut. Weiss (geographer), Herr Kirschstein (geologist), Dr. Schubotz (zoologist), Dr. Mildbraed (botanist), Dr. Czekanowski (anthropologist), Dr. von Raven (doctor), Sergeant Czechatka, and his servant Fr. Weidemann.

Most of the Europeans landed at Mombasa on May 30, and travelled by the Uganda railway to the Victoria Nyanza, and thence by steamer to Bukoba on the western shore, which was the starting-point of the expedition. Leaving this place on June 17, the north-western part of German East Africa was thoroughly explored in several directions; Lake Kivu, of the volcanic group of Namlagira, Ninagongo, and Sabinjo, was next visited and collections made in the Bugoie forest and on the islands of that lake. Thence the expedition proceeded northwards, visiting both shores of the Albert Edward Nyanza, and by the Semliki valley to Irumu, and thence by Makoko to Avakubi on the Aruwimi river. They then returned home down the Congo by canoe, steamer, and railway to Banana.

It will be seen that the route followed is one which has been traversed by many British travellers (none of whom are mentioned in this volume). The duke himself visited the extreme north-east of Uganda (between Ruwenzori and the Albert Nyanza), and another member of the expedition traversed Ankole and went on by Fort Portal to Irumu, but, except for these small excursions, the route lay entirely in German East Africa and the Congo Free State.

This volume is a very interesting one and full of valuable information, both on political and scientific matters. Although His Highness mentions that he was "*als Soldat erzogen, auf dem Rücken des Pferdes gross geworden*," very few African explorers have shown themselves able to describe countries, peoples, and incidents of travel in such a clear and lucid manner. The author has the gift of seizing on all that is really important, and is not without a sense of humour (as is shown, for instance, by his account of a victory gained by swarms of infuriated bees, which completely routed the whole expedition). The hunting stories are well told and form quite exciting reading. As both the duke and his companions made a practice of following up wounded lions in thick bush, and chasing slightly injured elephants through papyrus swamps, the reader is always expecting something. Unfortunately, Dr. von Raven, when following a wounded buffalo through thick elephant-grass, was charged and badly wounded; his life was, in fact, only saved by the bravery of his askaris.

In other respects the duke must be congratulated, for it is not given to many explorers to kill a lion, and then, turning round, to witness a volcano like Namlagira in active eruption.

The description of German East Africa and of the methods now adopted by the newer school of German officials deserves careful study, especially by those who are interested in Uganda. The scientific results of the expedition are of great value, for all seem to have co-operated and assisted one another. Thus, when shooting in a district where sleeping sickness prevailed, every one took with him microscope-slides so as to examine the blood of elephants or any other animal which might be met with; Trypanosomes were not, however, discovered. The scientific results will be described in other volumes which are in course of preparation. Maps have been made on a scale of 1 in 100,000 both of the Mpororo-Kagera and of the

volcanic district, covering over 5000 square kilometres, and many magnetic observations and stereogrammes were obtained. Most unfortunately, Lieut. Weiss was obliged by serious illness to return home before the end of the expedition. The geologist, Herr Kirschstein, spent six or seven months in unravelling the formation of the Ninagongo-Sabinjo group of volcanoes. He was most unfortunate on two occasions: once when, being caught in a sudden snowstorm on Karisimbi, twenty of his men were literally frozen to death, and again in the district south-east of the volcano Muhavura, where he was attacked by the natives and lost all except eleven of his caravan. Fortunately, he was successful in saving his geological specimens and observations.

The duke frequently quotes the actual descriptions given by his companions in the expedition. Both Dr. Mildbraed and Dr. Schubotz have some charming sketches of plant and animal life, and the future volumes promised by them will be of great importance. Dr. Mildbraed has some interesting remarks on the distribution of the lobelia flora of Ruwenzori. He also confirms the fact (already pointed out by British botanists) that the West Coast forest flora is represented even on Ruwenzori. Dr. Schubotz made an enormous collection of mammals (834 specimens), birds (800), reptiles and amphibia (377), fishes (708), decapods (1452), molluscs (686), insects (7603), etc., etc. These will require years of study by specialists before the results can be published.

There are many points of interest to anthropologists in this volume, such as the cave drawings from near Ruanja and the very complete account of the pigmies. A member of the expedition was even able to witness one of their dances.

As regards the photographs of scenery and of native races, they are unusually good. Indeed, those which refer to the African forest seem to be equal to the very best that have as yet been published.

With the exception of Lieut. Weiss and Dr. von Raven, the party enjoyed excellent health, which is ascribed by the duke to their having taken one gr. of Koch's malaria prophylaxe every seventh and eighth day. But we doubt if the duke quite realizes how much he is indebted to the Uganda railway and Victoria steamers, which landed the whole expedition at Bukoba in European health.

G. F. S. E.

AMERICA.

CHILE.

'Acht Lehr- und Wander-jahre in Chile.' By Prof. Dr. Otto Bürger. Leipzig: Weicher. 1909. Pp. 410. *With 37 Illustrations and Index.* Price 10m.

The author accepted a professorship at the University of Santiago and spent seven to eight years in Chile, during which he visited Chiloe, Concepcion, Valdivia, as well as Coquimbo and the nitrate districts. The illustrations are for the most part from photographs taken by himself.

Some of the pictures of forest scenery and vegetation are both interesting and characteristic of Chile. The book contains all sorts of information; there are valuable notes referring to the marine flora of Chiloe, and a graphic account of the 1906 earthquake, so far as it affected Santiago. As regards social, political, and financial matters, the author is very outspoken and a trifle dogmatic in his assertions. He says, for example, on p. 189, "The Chilian steals everything," and on p. 190, "Kein Chilene besitzt moralischen mut," and there are also such statements as "Chile possesses no history prior to 1812," and "the German zone stretches from 37° to 42° S. lat." Such criticism is hardly to be taken seriously, of course, but nevertheless leaves an impression which might seriously mislead any one ignorant of the country.

G. F. S. E.