
Review: Persian History

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by stating that this was exactly what the Commissioners were doing by refusing to admit a subject duly recognized by the universities.

This led to a second letter from Mr. Courthope, in which he stated that the entire scheme of Class I. examination was discussed, revised, and the marks readjusted after a conference with representatives from all British universities, and that no claim for geography as a special subject of examination was made. Were the universities ever officially asked what subjects should and what should not be included in this examination?

At the end of this letter the chairman of the Commissioners stated that "there was nothing to prevent the list of subjects being extended," but that they declined "to add any subject to the list before they received an application to do so from the authorities who regulate the studies of each university as a whole, as well as from the advocates of the particular study."

It is for the Public Departments and the Universities to act next.

REVIEWS.

ASIA.

PERSIAN HISTORY.

'Persia, Past and Present.' By A. V. Williams Jackson. *With Illustrations.* New York and London: Macmillan. 1906. *Price 17s. net.*

PROF. JACKSON'S work, as its title shows, is mainly historical. It deals in a most comprehensive fashion with the Achæmenian and Sasanian inscriptions and rock sculptures, in which Persia is so rich, and proves yet once again how important it is for the student to travel and for the traveller to study.

Prof. Jackson's most important task consisted in re-examining the Behistun inscriptions, which are so intimately connected with the late Sir Henry Rawlinson, and it is of extreme interest to read what difficulties had to be surmounted by that truly great frontier officer, and what labour and patience were involved before the annals of Darius were rescued from oblivion. Prof. Jackson is also an enthusiastic student of the Avesta, and it is of considerable value to follow his numerous identifications of the various localities connected with that great prophet.

In conclusion, for a complete knowledge of Persia this work is indispensable, and it is worth while to note how rapidly materials are being collected which place the present generation in a favourable position for studying the history of Persia. This task has not been attempted as a whole since Sir John Malcolm essayed it nearly a hundred years ago, but when the secrets of Susa are completely published, only the historian will be needed to crown the task.

P. M. S.

THE EXPLORATION OF TIBET.

'Tibet the Mysterious.' By Colonel Sir T. H. Holdich. ("The Story of Exploration." Edited by Dr. J. Scott Keltie.) London: Alston Rivers. 1906. *Price 7s. 6d. net.*

The latest volume of the "Story of Exploration" series, edited by Dr. J. Scott Keltie, is by the pen of Sir Thomas Holdich, and deals with "Tibet the Mysterious." No more interesting record of geographical discovery than that of Tibet can well be imagined, and it would be hard to find a writer capable of doing better justice to it than Sir Thomas Holdich. Students of Asiatic geography will remember how, up to some two years ago, our knowledge of Tibet was due almost entirely to what one may term the "exploring adventurer"—that is to say, to the