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Review: The Eastern Black Sea Littoral

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## THE ENGLISH COUNTIES.

'Cambridge County Geographies.' Edited by F. H. H. Guillemard, M.A., M.D. 'Surrey' (pp. viii., 151), 'Sussex' (pp. viii., 144), 'Essex' (pp. viii., 167), and 'Kent' (pp. viii., 146), by G. F. Bosworth; 'Norfolk' (pp. viii., 156) and 'Suffolk' (pp. viii., 136), by W. A. Dutt. Cambridge: University Press. 1909 *Maps, Diagrams, and Illustrations.* 1s. 6d. each.

The idea of this series is highly commendable, and so is, in most respects, the manner in which it is produced. Each county is dealt with from every appropriate standpoint—its origin, natural features, meteorology, population, industries, history, and antiquities, together with a notice of famous natives of the shire, all find a place. There is an alphabetical list in gazetteer form of the chief towns and villages, but beyond this there is unfortunately no index. Diagrams illustrate agricultural conditions, the density of population, and so forth. Photographs and other illustrations (including, in the earlier volumes, some not very successful line drawings) illustrate characteristic scenes, architecture, etc. In arrangement the volumes adhere strictly to a single model—so strictly, indeed, that some of the introductory paragraphs to the various subjects are repeated almost *verbatim*, and one or two typical illustrations are similarly repeated. If this makes somewhat for tediousness in considering the series as a whole, the motive is none the less good. The necessity for compression of much material into little space has tended to make the style somewhat wooden and dry, and therefore those who study the volume on any particular county because they know that county well may find it unsatisfying. But they should make allowance for the disabilities under which such volumes are written, and should remember the really excellent way in which the volumes are "got up," considering their moderate price. At the beginning of each volume is a coloured flat-contour map of the county (by George Philip), and at the end a coloured geological map on the same outline. They are very fair, but the plan of stopping the representation of relief at the county boundary has obvious faults—*e.g.* it makes it hard to follow the physical features along or over which the boundary runs.

The series deserves a wide recognition in connection with local geographical study. So far as it is possible to judge, it would be very difficult to find the omission of an important fact or feature in any part of the subject of any of the volumes under notice.

O. J. R. H.

## ASIA.

## THE EASTERN BLACK SEA LITTORAL.

'La Côte D'Azur Russe.' By E. A. Martel. 425 *Illustrations, and a Map.* Pp. 358. Paris: Delagrave. [No date.] *Price* 10 fr.

In 1903 M. Martel was commissioned by the Russian Government to make a general study of the conditions obtaining on that part of the south-western slopes of the Caucasus between Novorossiisk and Sukkumkale, with a view to the possibility of developing the region as a tourist and pleasure resort. In the present volume, which is the official report on the inquiry, the author paints in glowing colours the scenic beauties and general amenities of the district, and sees no reason whatever why this Russian Riviera should not, in time, vie with the Rivièras of France and Italy. But before any development in this direction can take place two improvements are essential—firstly, a railway from Novorossiisk to Poti, to replace the unsatisfactory transit by sea; and, secondly, the extermination of malaria. We give these two improvements in the order in which M. Martel suggests them; we should, however, be inclined to place the malaria problem first.

Considerable attention was devoted to questions of water-supply, and the author naturally found an interest in the many caverns and subterranean streams of the region. These are consequently treated more elaborately than most other geographical features; but while the volume, as a whole, is largely descriptive with many charming digressions and not infrequent touches of humour, it yet has a distinct geographical value, and all the more so because the author has studied carefully all previous papers touching on this region, and gives frequent references to other writers. In the chapter on climate, many statistics are cited to show the effect of forests in increasing rainfall, and, while M. Martel strongly deprecates any deforestation, he advocates the clearing of the brush and undergrowth among the trees to enable the rivers to flow more freely, and thus obviate the danger of floods. Outside the particular region with which the volume primarily deals, there are descriptions of the journey from Kiev and Odessa to Novorossiisk, and of visits to Tiflis, Baku, and Russian Armenia. There are an unusually large number of well-chosen illustrations, and several plans and sections, but the folding map is inadequate. The volume has no index.

#### AFGHAN FRONTIER TRIBES.

'Among the Wild Tribes of the Afghan Frontier.' By T. L. Pennell, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S.  
London: Seeley. 1909. 16s. *net*.

As Lord Roberts remarks in a sympathetic introduction to this book, it is a valuable record of sixteen years' good work by an officer—a medical missionary—at Bannu, on the north-west frontier of India. Most other writers about Afghan border tribes have dealt with their subject from a military point of view, but Dr. Pennell's mission has been to preach, heal, and save, and his modest narrative shows how much indirect and direct good may be achieved in this direction by these mission stations. Not only does the fame of the Feringi doctor spread so far that patients travel hundreds of miles to him to be cured, but his teaching and missionary labours, which in this case appear to be conducted with considerable discretion, are undoubtedly a focus of strong civilizing influence. One of the most interesting chapters tells of the Afghan character, of which many characteristic incidents are given. For instance, on one occasion the author, on his return home, was escorted by two Afghans of singularly truculent and villainous aspect. Nevertheless, they looked after their charge with the greatest attention, and brought him safely back to Bannu. On arrival, the author offered them some money as a reward, but this they indignantly refused, saying to take money from one who had been their guest would be contrary to their best traditions. Consequently they were sent over to the house of a native assistant, with instructions to feed them well and lodge them comfortably for the night. Early the next morning it was found they had already decamped, taking with them all their host's best clothes! In fact, the thieving propensities of the Afghans, their fidelity to their guests, their bluff and bullying propensities, and, more than all, the ubiquitous blood-feuds carried on for years between different tribes or families, form the subject of many curious tales. But the most original part of the work is the narrative of the author's experiences during his wanderings as a Sadhu, or mendicant ascetic, a life he voluntarily adopted for a time so as to adapt himself more to the level of the poor people to whom he wished to minister. It is difficult to do justice to Dr. Pennell's work as a whole, for it is largely made up of personal incidents and stories of great interest, but insusceptible of detailed review. As a means, however, of gauging the temperament and peculiarities of the Afghans, it should prove singularly useful to British officers who may have dealings with that difficult race.