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ASIA

History of the Portuguese in Bengal.— J. J. A. Campos. Calcutta and London : Butterworth & Co. 1919. *Rs.* 6. 8.

The story of the settlements of the Portuguese in Bengal, of their struggles and prosperity in the latter part of the sixteenth century, and their gradual decline under the combined effects of Spanish sovereignty, foreign competition and the hostility of the Emperor Shah Jahan, forms an important and obscure chapter in the record of Portuguese power in the East, and has been treated only in a perfunctory manner in the various well-known works which deal with that subject. In this volume the whole narrative has for the first time been related. Mr. Campos has devoted much research to the subject, and has not relied only on the Portuguese authorities, but has brought together information from Oriental sources and the works of European travellers, not neglecting the numerous reports and letters of the Jesuit Fathers and other Catholic missionaries, many of which have been made available during the past few years. The result is a full and trustworthy account of the rise and fall of Portuguese influence in Bengal and the neighbouring coasts.

The Bengal settlements were not on the same footing as those in other parts of India, where military possession was taken of certain towns and districts and a regular jurisdiction was exercised by viceroys and governors appointed by the King of Portugal. In Bengal no forts were built and no captains or officials were appointed. The authority of the Sultans of Bengal and afterwards of the Mughal Emperors was recognized in theory although often defied in practice. The ports of Chittagong (sometimes under Bengal, but more often under Aracan) and of Satgaon and its successor Hooghly on the Hooghly branch of the Ganges became during the sixteenth century the centres of a valuable and lucrative trade, profitable not only to the Portuguese but also to the rulers themselves. Their immunity for so long was doubtless due to this cause, and even after Shah Jahan's siege and capture of Hooghly in 1633 Mr. Campos has shown that the Portuguese were almost at once permitted again to settle not only at Hooghly but also at Pipli and Balasore.

In addition to the legitimate traders a number of Portuguese adventurers who can hardly be described except as pirates, established themselves on the islands and coasts of the Ganges Delta. Of their doings Mr. Campos gives a full account in chap. xiv. Their final fall dates from the conquest of Chittagong by Aurangzeb in 1665. The further history of the scattered Portuguese communities in Bengal through the eighteenth century and up to the present day is dealt with in chap. xv.

There are a few mistakes in the references, of which the following may be pointed out : p. 27, note—the reference to De Barros is to Dec. III. Bk. II. (not I.), chap. 3 (p. 32 f. of the Edn. of 1563) ; p. 58—the date of Fitch's visit should be 1586, not 1686.

M. L. D.

Survey of India : General Report, 1917-18.— Calcutta. 1919.

The General Report of the Survey of India for 1917-18 has recently come to hand, and a perusal of it shows that notwithstanding the depletion of officers through the war who were employed on surveying in the various fields of operation in the East, a large amount of important work was carried out by the department.

Considerable advance was made with the topographical surveys in the Northern, Southern and Eastern circles into which the country has been

divided for the convenience of these operations ; and from an abstract showing the progress of the topographical programme assigned to the department in 1905 it will be seen that during the year 24,779 square miles have been topographically surveyed, bringing the total since 1905 to 496,362 square miles, and leaving 1,325,238 square miles still to be done. These surveys were carried out principally on the 1-inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scales. Considerable progress was made with the forest surveys, of which full particulars are given. A large amount of work was also done in detail surveys on the scale of 16 inches to the mile, and altogether 25 cantonments and military stations were surveyed and published in modern style on this scale. Some still larger-scale surveys, 64 inches to the mile, were likewise carried out during the year. As regards trigonometrical survey, owing to war conditions this was considerably restricted, but some important triangulation, of a character midway between minor and secondary, was accomplished in the Sind-Sāgar Doāb, besides special work consisting of a triangulation of the Mayo Salt Mines, Khewra. The record of tidal and magnetic readings was continued, and some new work done. Two detachments were employed in levelling, and the out-turn, including branch lines, amounted to 285 miles of revisionary levelling and 152 miles of new levelling. The height of one station of the Principal Triangulation and of 4 primary and 175 secondary new bench-marks were determined. No latitude or pendulum operations were made during the year, and the personnel usually engaged in such work was employed at the headquarters offices in computation.

If the field operations of the Survey of India were necessarily curtailed through the war, the work of the engraving and photo-lithographing offices was, on account of the special demand for maps for military purposes, considerably increased, as will be seen from the fact that 2,976,929 finished maps and diagrams were printed in the machine presses as against 1,080,573 during 1916-17. As there was no increase of machine power, this increased out-turn is due to more efficient working and constant overtime. Thirteen sheets of the 1/M map of India and adjacent countries series, and one sheet of the layer-tinted Carte International du Monde on the same scale were published during the year.

At the end of the report are a number of excellent index maps, exhibiting clearly the present condition of the various series of maps, both as regards survey and publication, and especially indicating the work done during the year under consideration.

E. A. R.

Sport and Science on the Sino-Mongolian Frontier.— Arthur de Carle Sowerby. London: Andrew Melrose, Ltd. 1918. Pp. xvi., 295. *Frontispiece and Plates* i.-xvii. 12s. 6d. net.

Mr. Sowerby was already a keen sportsman and naturalist when in 1907 he met the late Mr. P. Anderson in Tientsin. Anderson at that time was carrying on the Duke of Bedford's zoological exploration of North-Eastern Asia for the British Museum. Finding they had much in common, he and the author made a joint excursion to the Ordos Desert, where they discovered several new mammals and made other interesting zoological observations. In later years Mr. Sowerby and his wife made many journeys across and along the Sino-Mongolian frontier, satisfying their craving for sport and adventure and gathering much zoological material for the Smithsonian Institution. In the present volume these wanderings with their attendant hardships are described in detail, and Mr. Sowerby succeeds in giving the reader a good idea of this

the text, in a table usefully correlating ancient and modern names. The preservation in compact form of a survey of ancient subdivisions of the land is a function of historical geography which cannot but be of value to the political historian.

O. J. R. H.

ASIA

London Men in Palestine.— **Rowlands Coldicott.** London: Edward Arnold. 1919. Pp. vi., 132. *Eight Illustrations and two Sketch-maps.* 12s. 6d. net.

This account is an unvarnished narrative of the doings of a company of "London Men" in the famous 60th Division. They appear to have had plenty of the discomforts but little of the "glory" of war, having been, it seems, all the time in reserve. The book is, as the author remarks, "chiefly a mass of private sorrows and rejoicings," and is a record of "something of the strain, urgency, and bodily feeling of our marchings in Palestine." It is a remarkable human document, almost too introspective in its account of "the pain, the weariness, the inner life." Happily most of us forget the daily sufferings in the hour of victory or of our return. Perhaps it is as well that a narrative like this records—as it does most fully—the countless discomforts of war. "Every one was fed up," "the spirit of the gallows hung over us," and such expressions are reiterated.

The company was marched and countermarched about the place in a way very perplexing to these exiles from the streets of London. It was only after the actual capture of Jerusalem that they came in for their first skirmish on the slopes of the Mount of Olives; and here our author was at once knocked out, and his narrative comes to an abrupt end.

The book will—nay, does—appeal to many who have been through these experiences. It is full of vivid descriptions and humorous incidents. For the general public the narrative would have gained in clearness had a little more attention been given to geographical detail and to the general plan of campaign. Read alongside of Massie's glowing account of 'How Jerusalem was Won,' it forms a useful corrective.

E. W. G. M.

Geology of India for Students.— **D. N. Wadia, M.A., B.Sc.** Pp. xviii. + 398. *With 12 Half-tone Plates, 8 Map-plates, and 37 Text-figures.* London: Macmillan. [1919.] 18s. net.

As an antidote to that insularity of ideas which has often been a reproach to English geologists, no better study can be suggested than that of the geology of India. Not only does the geological history of India differ profoundly from that of the home country, but it includes two regions—peninsular and extra-peninsular—which differ as completely in all the details of their geology as any two regions of the world can well do. A quarter of a century has passed since Mr. R. D. Oldham published the second edition of Medlicott and Blandford's standard 'Geology of India.' It is half that period since Sir Thomas Holland's chapter on geology in the 'Imperial Gazetteer of India' appeared (1907), and simultaneously Mr. Vredenburg's 'Summary of the Geology of India,' of which a new edition was published in 1910. Meanwhile the work of the Geological Survey of India has progressed in all directions, and new economic developments have occurred. There is, therefore, ample room for a new book on Indian geology.

Mr. Wadia's book does not profess to replace Medlicott and Blandford. That will still be useful to those who on any point need fuller information than is implied by the qualifying words of his title—"for students." In attractiveness

of appearance his book far surpasses any previous work on the subject, paper, print, and illustrations being of the best. Misprints are avoided, except among the palæontological names, where they are numerous. The most obvious defect is the absence of any geological map of the whole of India, but the official Survey map (32 miles to an inch) should fill the gap; and the map-plates give more detail for special districts than any general map could show. The absence of any palæontological diagrams is a gap less easily filled. The text-figures consist of sketch-maps and sections, mostly from Survey papers, and are very useful, though the addition of a scale would be an improvement. The half-tone plates (also for the most part from Survey memoirs) are well chosen and very effective.

The plan of the work is an almost inevitable one—first, a chapter on physical features; then a short but useful introduction to stratigraphy; after which the several rock systems are taken in as nearly chronological order as the differences between peninsular and extra-peninsular areas permit. These take up the bulk of the book, and are followed by chapters on physiographic and economic geology, the latter being well up to date, as shown by the accounts of such recent developments as the great production of manganese from the Dharwar system and the silver-lead industry of Bawdwin in the Northern Shan States. Finally comes a special chapter on the geology of Kashmir, taken as a country specially suitable for field-study by Indian students, containing as it does an epitome of the extra-peninsular rock-sequence, with an intercalation of the Gondwana beds so characteristic of the peninsula.

The book can be recommended to all who wish to understand the geological structure of India.
A. M. D.

A Guide-book to Central Syria, Lebanon and Phœnicia: Palestine Pocket Guide-books. Vol. 4. Published by the *Palestine News* and edited by Lieut.-Colonel H. Pirie-Gordon. Pp. 202. *Four Maps and a Table showing the relationship of the Princes of Antioch.* Price 20 P.T.

This further volume of the series, of which three volumes have previously received notice in these pages, contains a quantity of information useful to the traveller and the student. Besides the usual topographical notes there is a useful introduction on the "Prophet Mohammad and the Foundation of Islam" (abridged from Sykes' 'Khaliph's Last Heritage') and an appendix upon "The Earlier Conquerors of Syria." The map, which in vol. 3 was carried north as far as Latikiya, is here extended to include all northern Syria and Cilicia, on a scale of 1 : 500,000. A high standard of accuracy is maintained in this as in the previous volumes.
E. W. G. M.

Handbook for India, Burma and Ceylon. Edited by E. C. Buckland. Tenth edit. London: Murray. 1919. Pp. clxxv., 726. *Maps, etc.* 245.

This well-known guide reaches its tenth edition opportunely. It was very fully revised in 1913, but the war has naturally necessitated further alterations, and no doubt some of the statements dealing, for example, with travel under normal conditions are not at the moment accurate. The book does not suffer materially in this respect: for the rest, in every feature except its bulk it compares favourably with familiar foreign guides.