

German Explorations in West Africa.—Several short exploring trips have recently been made by various German travellers in the German territory of the Cameroons, and also along the Gold Coast, and others are in course of execution. At the end of last year Captain Kund, in company with Lieut. Tappenbeck and a strong caravan of 240 men, started from the Batanga coast upon his second journey to the upper course of the Sannaga and Njong; the survey of the lower part of the former river, carried out by Captain Kund, shows that the river lies seven minutes further to the west than represented on existing maps. Lieut. Zeuner made a brief excursion at the end of November through Mambanda into the Bafarami Mountains west of the Mungo river. The contemplated ascent of the culminating point of the range had to be abandoned in consequence of the unfavourable weather. On the 17th December Dr. Zintgraff set out from Barombi station on his long projected journey to the country of Adamaua lying to the north-east. In the Gold Coast region Dr. L. Wolf made a trip from the station of Bismarckburg to Salaga, passing through the hitherto unknown Udjuti country. Captain v. François and Lieut. Kling have also been exploring new routes between the various German stations in the interior and the coast.

Nomenclature of the Mountain Ranges South of the Lob-nor District.

—Mr. Delmar Morgan writes to us on this subject as follows:—On comparing the map accompanying the late General Prjevalsky's last book with that drawn in the Trigonometrical Survey Department in India from the late Mr. Dalgleish's observations, I have noticed certain discrepancies in the names of the ranges. Mr. Carey, to whom reference was kindly made by General Walker, writes: "So far as we could learn, the name 'Altun-tagh' is not used at all by the Lob people, who speak of the hills immediately to the south of the Lob-nor plain as the dry hills or the barren hills. There seemed to be no recognised designation of the range. To the Lob people proper the name Altun-tagh was quite unknown, but our guide from the Khoten settlers in the village of Chaklik told us that the designation was in use farther to the west for the hills from which gold is obtained. I believe it was from this information, and because the name already appeared in our maps, that it was used by Mr. Dalgleish. The gold digging is all done by the Khotenis, the Lob-nor people themselves being afraid to venture far into the mountains and altogether less enterprising. Whatever the correct name of the range of hills lying between Chaklik and the Chiman plain, the highest ridge of which was crossed by us at the Tash Dawan, may be, I have no doubt at all that Mr. Dalgleish is perfectly right in his location of the Chiman-tagh range. This lies to the south of the Chiman plain, and its main ridge is crossed at the Amban Ashkan Dawan (pass). There is a story that a Chinese official from Turfan once came as far as this pass and crossed it, hence the name, which means 'pass opened by the Amban.' I think it

would be a mistake to apply the name Chiman-tagh to any of the hills to the north of the Chiman plain. We regarded the hills between the Lob-nor and Chiman plains as one range of mountains, and my impression is that in writing the words Altun Range where he did, Mr. Dalgleish did not intend to treat the comparatively low ridge between Uzen Shor and Chiman Bashkul as a separate and distinct range. I am aware that he always took the greatest pains to get the names correctly. The Chiman Tagh is a clearly defined range, and I think his map shows it in the right place."—With reference to the same subject, Prjevalsky says in his last book: "The information collected during my journey to Lob-nor (i.e. in 1876) does not agree with what we now heard. The inhabitants there told me that if we went south by the old route formerly followed by the Kalmuks in their journeys to Tibet, we should, after crossing the Altyn-tagh, come to a wide plain 37 miles in width. Beyond it lay another transverse range 13 miles wide, having no separate name, and beyond this again another plain, abounding in springs, 27 miles wide, bordered on the south by the huge snowy Chamen-tagh range (cf. From Kulja to Lob-nor, p. 82). According to this information, the name Chamen-tagh applies to my 'Tsaidam,' Columbus,' and 'Mosco' ranges taken collectively, and this is supported by Mr. Carey's testimony. Meanwhile our Ulan-gadjir guides distinctly assured us that the range now described (in chap. vii. of Prjevalsky's last work, see Supplementary Papers, R.G.S.), was the Chamen-tagh, and, according to our latest information at Lob-nor, that name applies to the snowy range intervening between Lob-nor and Gass, i.e. the nearest to Altyn-tagh. All this confusion is only another proof of the unreliable nature of hearsay reports; and therefore until the matter is finally cleared up I abandon the names given by me to the ranges in question. Should the name 'Chamen-tagh' afterwards prove to belong to the mountains first spoken of by the Lob-nor people, as now indicated by Mr. Carey, my names 'Mosco,' 'Tsaidam,' and 'Columbus,' may stand as referring to particular parts, for these are separate ridges differing one from the other. And my present Chamen-tagh, i.e. the range which borders the 'Valley of the Winds' on the north, may be called *Nameless*, as I have indeed suggested for its easterly continuation. In any case this is not the Altyn-tagh as shown on Mr. Carey's map."—We may therefore conclude to let the name 'Altyn-tagh' still stand on our maps for the range (or ranges) nearest to Lob-nor, whilst we identify Chamen-tagh with the more southerly situated mountains, preserving Prjevalsky's names in smaller type in special localities.

The Resources of British North Borneo.—The report of Mr. W. B. Pryer, British Consular Agent at Sandakan, in British North Borneo, for the year 1888, has just been published by the Foreign Office (No. 493). He states that, while the imports show a steady increase, the exports remain almost stationary, denoting apparently that the limit of