

ASIA

TURKEY IN ASIA, ARABIA, CAUCASIA, IRAN

SCHWÖBEL, VALENTIN. **Die Landesnatur Palästinas.** (Series: Das Land der Bibel: Gemeinverständliche Hefte zur Palästinakunde im Auftrage des Deutschen Vereins zur Erforschung Palästinas herausgegeben von Professor Lic. Dr. G. Hölscher, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 3.) Part I: 56 pp.; Part II: 52 pp. J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, Leipzig, 1914. 9 x 6.

In about one hundred pages Dr. Schwöbel gives an admirable discussion of the physiographic features of Palestine. His work cannot be said to be original, but he has carefully studied the best authorities. He follows the usual method of discussing first the boundaries and general characteristics; then geological structure, climate, hydrography, surface forms, and altitude relations. For the most part he avoids theory and sticks to facts. In regard to the most warmly debated problem in the geography of Palestine, namely, changes of climate, he concludes that the hydrographic conditions have unquestionably changed during historic times, the supply of water being less now than 2,000 years ago. In explanation of this he offers the old hypothesis that subterranean sources of water supply have gradually become exhausted. People who have actually lived from season to season in dry countries are not likely to accept this idea. The volume of the springs changes so rapidly in response to seasons of drought or unusual rain that one can scarcely believe that huge reservoirs of water can have been gradually declining for hundreds of years. ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON.

WILLIAMS, W. L. **Armenia, past and present: A study and a forecast.** With an introduction by T. P. O'Connor. xi and 211 pp.; maps, index. P. S. King & Son, Ltd., London, 1916. 3s. 6d. 7½ x 5.

To western peoples but vaguely acquainted with the past of the Near East, this glimpse of Armenia's tragic history will serve as an introduction. A preliminary sketch of the country, written concisely and not overburdened by technicality, leads the reader to graphic passages in the early period. Here as in the later and wider stream of national history, the author provides a mere historical outline; but he succeeds in giving a thoroughly intelligent first lesson. The relation of Armenia to the western world and the role of the inhabitants as early guardians of the more advanced ideals of the West are exhibited.

Concerning modern problems the author has culled from opinions freely aired in the press during the past thirty years, and makes no personal contribution. A partisan of Armenian autonomy, he realizes at the same time that the shifting of Near Eastern problems a few points to the east after the war may convert Asia Minor into a storm-center of the Balkan type. With a past and future clouded alike, the history of Armenia shows what a misfortune it was for its people to inhabit a highway of nations instead of a wayside path.

BLYTH, ESTELLE. **The future of Palestine.** *The Near East*, No. 293, Vol. 12, 1916, Dec. 15, pp. 157-158; No. 294, Dec. 22, pp. 181-182.

CALVERLEY, E. E. **The pearl fishing in the Persian Gulf, where the finest gems in the world are found.** Ills. *Scientific American Suppl.*, No. 2146, Vol. 83, 1917, Feb. 17, pp. 100-101.

CORSI, MARIO. **Il califfato turco in Asia e la rivolta delo sceriffo della Mecca.** *Riv. Coloniale*, Vol. 11, 1916, No. 7, pp. 341-349.

FALEV, P. A. **Compte-rendu d'une mission en Transcaucasie et en Azerbeïdžan pendant l'été 1916.** *Bull. de l'Acad. Imp. des Sci. [de Pétrograd]*, Ser. 6, 1917, No. 3, pp. 171-176. [In Russian.]

GHIBELLINO, D. O. **La Francia e l'Italia in Oriente e in Affrica: La questione dello Jemen.** *Riv. Coloniale*, Vol. 11, 1916, No. 10, pp. 580-587.

HILL, RICHARD. **In the cosmopolitan Caucasus.** Ills. *Travel*, Vol. 28, 1916, No. 2, pp. 26-30 and 46. ["A region that has harbored many nationalities since pre-Roman times—the valley of the seven nations and how the people live."]

JASTROW, MORRIS, JR. **The world's highway.** *The Nation*, No. 2670, Vol. 103, 1916, Aug. 31, pp. 197-200. [The historical struggle for the highway of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia.]

KHARAJIAN, H. A. **Regional geology and mining of Armenia.** 72 pp.; maps, diags., bibliogr. The Nerso Press, New York, 1915. 9 x 6.

PACE, BIAGIO. **Le due prime campagne della Missione archeologia italiana in**

Asia Minore. Maps, ills. *Boll. della Reale Soc. Geogr. Italiana*, Vol. 5, 1916, No. 11, pp. 885-907.

ROGERS, R. W. **A history of Babylonia and Assyria.** Vol. I: xx and 542 pp.; map, diagr., ills. Vol. II: xix and 609 pp.; ills., bibliogr., indexes. The Abingdon Press, New York, Cincinnati, 1915. 2 vols. \$10.00. [A praiseworthy book of which the first volume deals with the history of archeological exploration, the geography of the Tigris-Euphrates region, and the modern development of knowledge of its ruins, mounds, and cuneiform records. The geographical sections are by way of explanation, but they are unusually clear and helpful. The constant contrast between the ancient and the modern geography of the Euphrates valley is scholarly in treatment and contributes much high-grade material to a regional study of the valley.

The second volume treats principally of dynasties, but is full of interesting matter concerning ancient colonists, nomads, plundering and military expeditions, and all the laborious but romantic wars between rival kingdoms through which was spread a knowledge of the arts and sciences of Assyria and Babylon.]

SOUTHARD, A. E. **Aden's trade in gums, spices, oils, and seeds.** *Commerce Repts.*, 1917, No. 24, pp. 376-379. Bur. of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

THIMM, C. A. **Turkish self-taught, with English phonetic pronunciation.** (Marlborough's Self-Taught Series.) Revised by G. Hagopian. 138 pp.; ill. E. Marlborough & Co., London, 1910. 60 cents. 7½ x 5.

INDIA

JACK, J. C. **The economic life of a Bengal district: A study.** 158 pp.; diagrs. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1916. 7s. 6d. 9 x 6.

This remarkable little book was written by a member of the Indian Civil Service who went home to take part in the war. While in India he had supervised one of the most careful economic studies ever made. With a corps of high-grade native assistants he made a detailed study of the income and expenditures of some 350,000 families in the Bengal district of Faridpur, in the delta of the Brahmaputra and Ganges. A million pages of data had been boiled down to a few tables, but the results had never been published. Fearing that his results might be lost to the world Mr. Jack took advantage of a furlough and in five days wrote this book. In it he not only gives a vivid description of a well-defined geographical province, but sheds a most illuminating light on Great Britain's wise colonial administration. Apparently his work had no immediate connection with the recent projects for increased customs duties on cotton in India, or for India's expenditure of half a million dollars for the world war; nevertheless it has a significant bearing on these questions.

Four-fifths of the two million people of Faridpur depend directly upon agriculture. Although the flat delta is inundated for months each year, population averages 900 per square mile. The southwestern part forms a shallow lake for eight months. Yet even there 800 people per square mile live on little islands which they themselves have heaped up. The period of steady farm work lasts only three months. The rest of the time, having harvested their rice and jute, the people have little to do except to fish. Sometimes the farmers of fairly prosperous districts hire those from less prosperous places to cut their rice crops for one-sixth of the product, while they themselves go to more favored places and work for one-fifth of the crop. The people are mild and quiet, as befits the climate, and Mr. Jack comments on the lack of laughter and of rough games among the boys. Litigation, however, is distressingly common, and lawyers profit outrageously.

For his economic discussion Mr. Jack divides the population into four classes whose numbers and weekly income per family are as follows:

(1)	Persons living in comfort (49%)	9s. 4d. per week
(2)	“ “ below comfort (28%)	6s. “ “
(3)	“ “ above indigence (18½%)	4s. 3d. “ “
(4)	“ “ in indigence (4⅓%)	3s. “ “

Among the indigent there are practically none who suffer from hunger. Everyone can fish and the Bengalis are always ready to give food to the poor.

The most significant part of Mr. Jack's book is his discussion of indebtedness and especially taxation. Nearly half of the people are in debt, although most of the debts are small. The great difficulty is the enormous rate of interest, 30 or 40 per cent compounded semi-annually. Before the war in the more advanced countries of Europe the average revenue of the government from all sources ranged from \$32 or \$33 per head in England and France to about \$18 in Italy, while in Japan it amounted to \$8. In Farid-

pur it was only 90 cents per person. Nevertheless wages in every occupation in the country districts of Japan appear to be at a lower level than in Bengal. In southern Italy in the purely agricultural districts the income of the average peasant may be larger than that of the people of Faridpur, but it is nothing like twenty times as great, as it would have to be in proportion to the taxes. This leads to Mr. Jack's main conclusion. "Civilized government is not a cheap thing, and the recognized law is that the poorer the country the greater the cost of its government. India is an amazing exception. . . . Bengal . . . is incontestably the most lightly taxed of civilized countries It is probable that there is no other in which the burden of taxation is not twice or three times as great as it is in Bengal." In return for this light taxation the Indian bureaucracy has supplied India with cheaper railway communication than any possessed by European countries, has provided for her the greatest irrigation works in the world, and has created a judicial system whose fairness and expedition are unsurpassed. It has maintained order and security of life and property in the most unlikely conditions, and has grappled successfully with widespread failure of crops, the most difficult problem which any government has ever been called upon to face. Of late years it has also attempted the stupendous labor of providing an ignorant and densely populated country with a modern system of education and sanitation. The only place where the Bengali gets little return for his taxes is in local affairs which he himself manages. Not only is education almost totally neglected, but health, water supply, roads, lighting, and the like are all very poorly managed, and a large part of the taxes is lost in the form of graft.

Mr. Jack's book is more forcible because he does not attempt to eulogize the British policy in India. He simply shows what it has done. Because he deals solely with facts his statements are convincing. If the people of India worked with a tithe of the energy and efficiency of their British rulers that country might be the richest in the world.

ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON.

HOLDICH, T. H. **The survey link connecting the triangulations of India and Russia.** Ills. *Nature*, No. 2449, Vol. 98, 1916, Oct. 5, pp. 92-94.

— **India, plague investigations in, Eighth report on.** Diagr., ill. *Journ. of Hygiene: Plague Suppl. 3*, Vol. 13, 1914, pp. 403-681. Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India, the Royal Society, and the Lister Inst., London.

— **India and Russia, Completion of the link connecting the triangulations of, 1913.** vii and 121 pp.; maps, diagr., ill., bibliogr., index. *Records of Survey of India*, Vol. 6. Dehra Dun, 1914.

KELWAY-BAMBER, H. **Thirty-five years' advance in Indian railway development.** Diagr., ill. *Asiatic Rev.*, No. 26, Vol. 9, 1916, pp. 182-220.

KERSHAW, L. J. **Quinquennial review of forest administration in British India for the period 1909-10 to 1913-14 to which is appended the annual return of forest statistics for the year 1913-14.** 31 pp.; maps, diagr. Dept. of Revenue and Agric., Simla, 1915.

— **Meteorological observations taken in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, 1914.** Diagr. *Rept. of the Indian Assoc. for the Cultivation of Science for the Year 1914*, pp. 93-107. Calcutta, 1916.

RYDER, C. H. D. **Turco-Persian Frontier Commission.** Map, ill. *Records of Survey of India*, Vol. 9, pp. 164-173. Calcutta, 1916.

S—, —. **India and German trade.** *Asiatic Rev.*, No. 28, Vol. 10, 1916, pp. 414-419; No. 29, Vol. 11, 1917, pp. 100-104.

TODD, J. A. **The world's cotton supply and India's share in it.** *Journ. Roy. Soc. of Arts*, No. 3345, Vol. 65, 1916, pp. 110-131 (discussion, pp. 126-131).

FARTHER INDIA, INCLUDING BURMA

CADET, G. LE. **Bulletin pluviométrique (1) 1914 and (2) 1915.** Maps. Observatoire Central de l'Indochine, Service Météorologique, Phu-Lien, 1915, 1916.

A prime source of meteorological material for the Indo-China region of southeastern Asia. Each volume has a few pages of well-conceived explanatory text, followed by tables and summaries, and a map showing the average yearly rainfall. Except for a belt of heavy rainfall on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Siam the regions of heavy precipitation conform to a notable degree with the topography. The most marked topographic elevation on the peninsula is a range of mountains that runs parallel to and very near the eastern coast. This, combined with a southeastern monsoon, results in a heavy rainfall all along the eastern coast except for a break that corresponds with the plains at Hanoi (lat. 20° N.).

BRENIER, HENRI. **Nos grandes colonies et la guerre: Indochine.** *Revue des Sci. Polit.*, Vol. 35, 1916, Apr. 15, pp. 145-171.

BRIGGS, L. P. **French Indo-China.** Ills. *Far Eastern Rev.*, Vol. 13, 1916, No. 1, pp. 32-34. Shanghai.

BRIGGS, L. P. **The production of palm sugar in Cambodia.** *Commerce Repts.*, 1916, No. 109, pp. 516-517. Bur. of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

DURANDIN, PAUL. **Le pétrole dans l'Indochine française: Indices de l'existence de gisements d'hydrocarbures.** *Bull. du Comité des Trav. Hist. et Sci.: Sect. de Géogr.*, Vol. 29, 1914, pp. 40-79. Minist. de l'Instr. Publ. et des Beaux-Arts, Paris.

— **French Indo-China, Mining in.** Ills. *Far Eastern Rev.*, Vol. 13, 1916, No. 2, pp. 68-69.

LEMOINE, PAUL. **Les travaux du Service Géologique de l'Indochine.** *La Géogr.*, Vol. 30, 1914-15, No. 4, pp. 288-290. Paris.

MAYBON, C. B. **Au sujet de la "Rivière du Tonkin."** Map. *Rev. de l'Hist. des Colonies Françaises*, Vol. 4, 1916, Part 3, pp. 257-266. Paris. [Discussion of the fluvial routes to Tonkin in the seventeenth century.]

REGELSPERGER, GUSTAVE. **L'Indochine actuelle, d'après l'"Atlas statistique" de M. Henri Brenier.** *Rev. Générale des Sciences*, Vol. 27, 1916, No. 6, pp. 178-189.

— **Siam, Royal state railways of.** Map, ills. *Far Eastern Rev.*, Vol. 12, 1916, No. 9, pp. 365-368. [Director General Weiler's report for the year 2457, A. D. 1914-15.]

— **Anam: Fanrang Bay to Tonkin Gulf.** 1:800,000. With inset: Entrance to Hue River. 1 in. to 1 mi. (1:70,000). *U. S. Hydrogr. Office Chart 3152*. Washington, D. C., 1916.

— **Indo-Chine, Carte de l'.** 1:100,000. Six sheets: No. 177, *Kompong-Thom*; No. 178, *Porong*; No. 188, *Kompong-Chlmang*; No. 198, *Oudong*; No. 208, *Pnom-Penh*; No. 234, *Can-Tho* (provisional edit., 1915). Service Géogr. de l'Indo-Chine, Hanoi, 1913.

— **Malacca, Strait of: Dinding Islands, The, and channels.** 1:24,300. *U. S. Hydrogr. Office Chart No. 3738*. Washington, D. C., 1916.

— **Malakka Strait: Klang Strait and approaches.** 1:50,000. *U. S. Hydrogr. Office Chart No. 3742*. Washington, D. C., 1916.

— **Siam, Gulf of: Fukwok Island and channels leading to the anchorages off Kampot.** 1:150,000. *U. S. Hydrogr. Office Chart No. 3146*. Washington, D. C., 1916.

— **Siam, Gulf of: Kut Island to Riem Bay.** 1:275,000. *U. S. Hydrogr. Office Chart No. 3138*. Washington, D. C., 1916.

— **Singapore to Kapas Island, Malay Peninsula—East Coast.** 1:500,000. *U. S. Hydrogr. Office Chart No. 3131*. Washington, D. C., July, 1916.

OCEANS

— **Atlantic and Indian Oceans, Monthly meteorological data for ten-degree squares in the, (1) January-June, 1914; (2) July-December, 1914; (3) January-June, 1915; (4) July-December, 1915.** 2 pp. each. *Kon. Nederl. Meteorol. Inst. [Publ.] No. 107*, Utrecht, 1915; 1916.

AULT, J. P. **Magnetic declinations and chart corrections observed on the Carnegie from Lyttelton, New Zealand, to South Georgia, and thence to Lyttelton and Pago Pago, December 1915-June 1916.** Map. *Terrestr. Magnet. and Atmosph. Electr.*, Vol. 21, 1916, No. 3, pp. 109-116.

AULT, J. P. **Magnetic declinations and chart corrections obtained by the Carnegie from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, to Lyttelton, New Zealand, August-November, 1915.** *Terrestr. Magnet. and Atmosph. Electr.*, Vol. 21, 1916, No. 1, pp. 15-18.

BABER, ZONIA. **The oceans, our future pastures.** *Scientific Monthly*, Vol. 3, 1916, No. 3, pp. 258-262. [Discusses the depletion of large sea animals and the desirability of international coöperation in enforcing remedial measures.]

BRUCE, W. S., ANDREW KING, AND D. W. WILTON. **The temperatures, specific gravities, and salinities of the Weddell Sea and of the North and South Atlantic Ocean.** *Trans. Roy. Soc. of Edinburgh*, Vol. 51, 1915, Part 1, No. 4, pp. 71-109.