

Shoghi Effendi: Das Hinscheiden Abdul-Bahas, von Sitarih Khanum (Lady Bloomfield.) Stuttgart. 1923. pp. 32.

Though German Behai's are not so numerous nor so important as the American supporters, they are by no means negligible and are on the increase. Already they have produced a considerable literature (much of it translation), of which the above pamphlet is the latest specimen. Students will remember that when Abbas Effendi died, his son, Showki Effendi, a young man of little personality and apparently smaller abilities, became his successor. This pamphlet, written in the usual Behai extravagant way, is an account of the passing of Abbas Effendi and the succession of Showki.

A. J.

Les Almohades: Historie d'une dynastie berbère, par R. Millet. Précédé d'une lettre du Maréchal Lyautey, et d'une Préface par Gaston Guiot. Avec portrait. Paris. 1923. pp. xxix. 160. 12 fr.

Since the brilliant studies of Goldziher (ZDMG 1887), and *Ibn Tournert* (1903), and Codera's *Decadencia y desaparicion des Almoraides en España* (1899), there has been little work done on this interesting Moslem dynasty which, as the result of a great religious movement, succeeded the Almoravids as supreme power in Morocco.

To the student of Islam, the main interest in the Almohades will always be in the religious movement based on the teaching of Ibn Tumart which brought them into power, and for that he still has to turn to Goldziher. But there nevertheless is a considerable interest in the political and social history of this Moroccan dynasty.

In recent years French scholars have done an immense amount of work in elucidating Moroccan history, and this present work is no unworthy contribution to that fund of scholarship.

ARTHUR JEFFERY.

The Shahnama of Firdausi, done into English by A. G. Warner and E. Warner. Vol. viii. London. 1923. pp. xvi. 447. Trübner's Oriental Series. 10/6.

This is the last and concluding volume of this excellent translation of the greatest and most important of Persian Epics. For the student of Islam it is particularly important for the picture of conditions it gives which enables us to see the environment into which Islam entered in Persia, and which profoundly modified it in so many ways. The volume is excellently printed and provided with an index.

A. J.

Histoire de la Philosophie orientale par René Grousset. Paris. 1923. Pp. 376. Nouvelle Librairie Nationale. 15 fr.

The reviewer picked up this latest volume of the Bibliothèque Française de Philosophie, with the expectation of finding a new account of old friends. But the sub-title proclaimed his disappointment, for it announced that this History of Eastern Philosophy dealt only with India, China and Japan.

Students of Islam have little interest in the philosophy of the Farther East save in so far as Hindu and Buddhist ideas have had an influence on the development of Moslem thought, and of that this book tells nothing. But if there is no particular interest for the special study of Islam, no student of Oriental thought can fail to be fascinated by the story Mr. Grousset has written here. His acquaintance with the work of modern

scholarship is wide and exact, and his book reads as interestingly as a romance. One feels Mr. Grousset's sympathy for the systems of thought he describes, but even his sympathetic treatment cannot hide the fact, which has been becoming more and more evident as Oriental thought has been more exactly studied, of the utter futility of it all.

ARTHUR JEFFERY.

The Arab Conquests in Central Asia. By H. A. R. Gibb, M.A., lecturer in Arabic, School of Oriental Studies, London. The Royal Asiatic Society, London. 1923. pp. 98.

This book gives sources for a new history of the Arab conquests in Central Asia. "It makes no claim to present a complete historical account of the Arabs in Central Asia, but is intended solely as a critical study of the authorities in greater detail than has hitherto been made. Much is therefore omitted, because it has already been dealt with in the standard histories. In order to keep down the cost of publication, the extensive references which originally accompanied the text have been cut down to a few notes at the end of each chapter. No references are given when, as in the great majority of cases, the authority for the statements made can easily be found in the appropriate place either in Tabari or Balāhūri." It will be found invaluable to the student of the Moslem conquest of this vast area.

The Lotos Woman. By Nathan Gallizier. Thomas Page Company, Boston. pp. 470. \$2.00.

A romance of Byzantine Constantinople, extravagant in its descriptions of the luxuries and vices of the court, yet giving the background of the early contact of Islam with Christianity. The heroine has always lived in a garden of pleasure, and therefore finds "that the doctrine of the Cross with its self-denial has no access to her superficial soul."

Kings of Arabia: The Rise and Set of the Turkish Sovranty in the Arabian Peninsula. By Harold F. Jacob, C.S.I., Officer of the Legion of Honour. Mills & Boon, London. 1923. pp. 294. Price 12/6.

In spite of its unfortunate title, this book should have a wide sale, as it fills a distinct need in the literature on Arabia. It does not deal with ancient history nor with the whole peninsula, but with the interesting story of the Turks and the British in Yemen. Colonel Jacob has been for many years in the closest touch with Arabia, both as First Assistant to the Resident of Aden, and as Political Agent of the Aden Hinterland. During the Great War he was chief political Adviser on S. W. Arabia to two successive High Commissioners of Egypt—Sir Reginald Wingate and Viscount Allenby. He has been in close touch with the work of Christian Missions, and pays a high tribute to Dr. John C. Young, of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission, and to the Danish missionaries. He regards missions as "prime assets in the future of the country."

The book starts with the earliest touch of the British in Yemen in the 17th century, and goes on to relate the capture of Aden in 1839 A. D. Then follows a sketch of the British methods of administration, and an explanation of the régime of Captain Haines and other administrators. The British methods are contrasted with those of the Turks, whose political machinery has played so signal a part in shaping the destinies of the Arabs. The author treats of the ascent to the Hinter-

lans, and the subsequent retreat to Aden. He deals with the present policy of Great Britain in Yemen, but does not indulge in prophecy. What is wanted for the development of the country is a railway for trade, and a college for the sons of the native rulers. Z.

Early Buddhist Monachism: 600 B. C.—100 B. C. By Sukumar Dutt, M.A., B.L. Trübner's Oriental Series. London. 1924. Pp. 196. Price 10/6.

The importance of the Buddhist monasteries in the whole economy of ancient Indian life and culture is a subject which this book for the first time makes clear. Their growth and their relations with society at large are described, and the influence of Chinese types is estimated. The monasteries appear to have played the rôle of universities, with a full complement of libraries, schools of study and lecture halls. Professors and students from all parts of Asia flocked to frequent them. The violence of the Mohammedan invasions seems to have arrested their development. The storming of Behar, in A. D. 1197, and the ensuing massacre of Buddhist monks, was an act of brute fanaticism which forced Buddhist monasticism below the surface of Indian life. Z.

Baalbek in Islamischer Zeit, von Moritz Sobernheim. Berlin 1922. Walter de Gruyter. Folio 39 pp.

This pamphlet is a "Vorabdruck" from the third volume of the author's *Baalbel Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen und Untersuchungen in den Jahren 1899 bis 1905*, and has been specially published for students of Islam, who may not have any particular interest in the larger work, but who are interested in the collection of inscriptions belonging to the Islamic period, some of which are of no little importance. A. J.

Islam at the Cross Roads. A Brief Survey of the Present Position and Problems of the World of Islam. By Lacy O'Leary, D.D. Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd. London. 1923. Price 6/6. Pp. 215.

We have reviewed a number of recent books by Dr. O'Leary. This, his latest, deals with the present position of Islam in seven brief chapters, discussing such questions as Western penetration of Moslem lands and the re-action that followed, pan-Islamic hopes and present day nationalism, with a concluding chapter on the war and after. As a summary of present conditions, the book is admirable, but it lacks background, and the text is disfigured by a number of inaccuracies that are inexcusable.

Speaking of Mecca he says, "No Christian soldiers were allowed to enter the *Muharram*." When he characterizes Christianity and Islam, not as antagonists, but allies; and says that there were no forced conversions in the early history of Mohammedanism, one wonders in how far the author is acquainted with the sources of Moslem history. In one or two places the author pays tribute to the excellent work of missionaries; but what will missionaries say of such a statement as "there is nothing in Islam which directly insists on plurality of wives or acts as an incentive to divorce"? Z.

The Young Knight. Or, How Michael Faversham fought valiantly with the Knights of Saint John against the Turkish hordes and won his spurs as a Knight of Malta. By I. M. B. of K. L. C. Page & Company, Inc. Boston. 1923. Pp. 233. \$1.65.

An excellent story to interest children in the age-long struggle between Turk and Christian. The young hero has high ideals and unusual

loyalty to friends and foes. Even if these knights of old fought with a wrong weapon, they did defend Europe against the Crescent; and the story has a message: "Take heed that no human frailty move thee to strike unjustly. Gird thyself with the sword of Christ; and remember it is not with the sword, but with faith that the saints conquer kingdoms." Such a book should come as a challenge to the children of missionaries.

A. E. Z.

Tafsiri Ya Kurani Ya Kiarabu Kwa Lugha Ya Kisawahili Pamoja Na Dibaji Na Maelezo Machache. By Godfrey Dale. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. London. 1924. Pp. 686. Price 3/6.

This translation of the Koran was described in our last number in an article by Canon Dale himself. The book is well printed, has a full index and is of convenient form for constant use. Would that we had similar translations in Chinese and other languages.

Al Hijab or why Purdah is Necessary. H. H. Nawab Sultan Jehan Begum Shaeba. C. I., G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., G. B. E. Ruler of Bhopal. Printed by Thacker, Spink & Co. 6, Mangoe Lane, Calcutta for the Ruler of Bhopal. 1922. Pp. 212*6.

This little book is an attempt to uphold the Islamic system of Purdah as the one and only cure for the immorality attendant on modern civilization, human nature being what it is. Islam, it is claimed, has the only solution for the problem created by the wickedness of man. The Begum tries to prove a case for Purdah from the Koran, Traditions, the practice of the Companions, the opinion of Moslem jurists, the frantic state of the middle Roman Empire, the condition of woman today in Scotland and the U. S. A. and so forth. But we feel she has only looked (and that rather speciously and partially) at one side of the question. For she does not take into account the acknowledged fact of polygamy and concubinage in Islam, practised normally by many decent Moslems. Thus she does not see the vital difference between Moslem and "modern" civilization. The latter (alas!) blinks at immorality, the former (also alas!) legalizes it. Is legalized vice really a better way of life? Moreover the Begum's dictum that Islam's permission for divorce, for anything less than adultery, shows that she has not studied any other solution to the problem than the Islamic and the modern, and hints at the same time at the low conception of marriage prevalent in Islam. This known fact itself renders the Begum's assertion of Islam's universal respect for womanhood rather mythical and unrealized. We would ask her to use her gifts in a study of the Christian solution or rather, we would say, Christ's.

E. F. F. B.

Baha'u'llah and the New Era. J. E. Esslemont. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. pp. 236. Price 8/6.

A comprehensive outline of the history and teachings of the Bahai movement, by one who has become an ardent disciple and advocate. The volume, therefore, lacks the critical spirit, and glosses over many of the disagreeable facts connected with this movement. In the bibliography, for example, scarcely any works are mentioned save those by adherents of the sect. Much is made of the fulfilled prophecies in relation to the World War as a proof of the divine mission of Baha'u'llah. The extravagant style of the book may be judged from a paragraph regarding the prophethood of the Bab and Baha'u'llah: "The grandeur and sublimity of their ideals, the nobility and self-sacrifice of their lives,