

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 Kiswahili 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,

their dauntless courage and conviction, their amazing wisdom and knowledge, their grasp of the needs of both Eastern and Western peoples, the comprehensiveness and adequacy of their teachings, their power to inspire whole-hearted devotion and enthusiasm in their followers, the penetration and potency of their influence, the progress of the Movement they founded—surely these constitute proofs of prophethood as convincing as any which history of religion can show.” Z.

**Voyage Du Marchand Arabe Sulayman En Inde Et En Chine:** Rédigé en 851 Suivi de Remarques par Abu Zayd Hasan (vers 916). Traduit de l'Arabe avec Introduction, Glossaire et Index. par Gabriel Ferrand. Éditions Bossard: Paris. 1922. pp. 155.

The book consists of two parts, both translations of rare manuscripts found in the Bibliothèque Nationale. The first is an account of a visit to India and China by an Arab merchant, who started from Muscat, and spent four months reaching Canton, China, by sailing ship. The second book is complementary, and consists of geographical notes by one who was neither a voyager nor a merchant, but a student of geography. The little volume throws considerable light on early connections between Arabia and China, while the account of Java and of the pearl fishers is highly amusing. Z.

**Wanderings in Arabia:** The Authorized Abridged Edition of "Travels in Arabia Deserta." By Charles M. Doughty. London: Duckworth & Co. Two Volumes. pp. 309. pp. 297. 20s. net.

One of the greatest travel books in literature, which will be studied as long as travel books have any attraction. No other writer has ever interpreted the Arab mind and the Arabian personality as has Doughty. We welcome this abridged edition. It should be in every missionary's library. No one can find fault with the omission of the technical and the archæological sections of the original narrative; and at so modest a price the reader could not expect maps and illustrations. But it is to be regretted that there is neither preface, introduction nor index. This is inexcusable as it presupposes a knowledge of the writer, and of his adventure, as well as the date of his journey. The sketch map is so small that it might almost as well have been omitted.

**Persian Women and Their Ways:** The Experiences and Impressions of a Long Sojourn Amongst the Women of the Land of the Shah with an Intimate Description of Their Characteristics, Customs and Manner of Living. By C. Colliver Rice. London: Seeley, Service & Co. Limited. 1923. pp. 112. 21 shillings net.

One who has made the journey to and from Persia eight times, and by five different routes, who has lived close to the people, and loves them as only a devoted missionary can, speaks with authority in this interesting volume. In twenty-seven brief chapters we are given a whole range of topics covering every aspect of Persian home life—the women of the towns, of the villages; their childhood, education, and lack of education; their dress, food, shopping, amusements, industries; feasts and fasts, superstitions and religion; patriotism and poverty; their illnesses and their customs at death—all these are vividly portrayed. There are a few inaccuracies in the chapter on Islam, but our chief criticism is that the author, or possibly the publishers, have dealt with the material as Othman did with the chapters of the Koran; they are arranged without any logical order, and the titles bear the same rela-

tion to the contents, in some cases, as "the Ant" and "the Spider". But in spite of this lack of arrangement, every page bristles with facts, and the book is sure to win friends and intercessors for Persian womanhood.

**Arab-Asia:** A Geography of Syria, Palestine, Irak, and Arabia. By Mrs. Lanice Paton Dana. Beirut Press, Syria. pp. 170.

This is by far the best popular geography of these lands that we have in English, and although it is prepared specially for the use of secondary schools, it well deserves a much wider circle of readers. The arrangement of material is ideal, and numerous maps, illustrations and diagrams make the book attractive. Although there is no bibliography, the references show that recent authorities have been consulted; and apart from some unfortunate misprints, such as *Arabia Inflex* for *Arabia Infelix* and *codtinues* for *continues*, etc., the proofs have been well read. We regret that the system of transliteration does not follow any one authority, nor does it correspond with that used on the colored maps. Z.

**A Call to Prayer.** By Samuel M. Zwemer. Marshall Brothers: London. Pp. 74. 3/6.

A reprint of editorials and other short papers which appeared in THE MOSLEM WORLD, and are now presented as an argument for united prayer.

**Island India.** By Augusta de Wit. Yale University Press: New Haven. Pp. 105. Price \$3.00.

The author is well known as a Dutch novelist and essayist who has also a thorough command of English. Long residence in the Dutch East Indies and love for it and its people have given Miss de Wit a marvelous insight into the brown man's mind. With a beauty of style and diction which fascinate the reader, she penetrates the veneer of Mohammedanism and describes the animistic life of the Malay Javanese people in seven essays.

The illustrations of the volume, however, and sometimes the contents verge on the cubist and futuristic school; yet one looks at things through the eyes of the native when "iron buffaloes and iron elephants, with a heart of fire, carry their heavy burdens over a steel bridge."

**The Truth About Mesopotamia, Palestine and Syria.** By J. deV. Loder. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. London. 1923. pp. 157. Price 7/6.

This book, dealing with the political affairs of Middle East countries in which the Arab Movement has been a predominant influence, covers the period from the Young Turk revolution (1908) to the Lausanne Conference.

The greater part of the book is devoted to an interesting and detailed account of Allied occupation in Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine before and after the Armistice; and the writer stresses the difficulties of coping with conflicting ambitions of the Arab Nationalists and the Zionists. Although the comments on the whole are fair, yet British administration and Arab claims are generally approved while French and Jewish policies are discredited.

The author concludes with the opinion that at present, when "selfish motives enter so largely into the calculations of governments," world solidarity can be achieved only by the enforcement of the League of

Nations and the Mandate system. The texts of various agreements and mandates are given in an appendix. V. L. P.

"**Al Khilafa.**" A series of discussions regarding the legalistic, political, social, and reform aspects of the Khalifate. By Muhammad Rashid Rida. Pp. 142.

This study of the live question of the Khalifate is a collection of articles recently written by the editor of the *Minar* for that journal, and deals with the subject from the standpoint of orthodox Islam.

Among the subjects discussed are the necessary characteristics of a Khalif; the unity of the Khalifate; the right to the Khalifate by conquest; a comparison of the Khalifate and the Papacy; the Ottoman Turks; the Khalifate and the Europeanization of Islam. Brief mention is made of the relationship of socialism and Islamic law, and the attitude of Christians, including Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener to the Khalifate and Moslem law. E. E. ELDER.

**El Koran**, das heisst Die Lesung, Die Offenbarungen des Mohammed ibn Abdallah des Propheten Gottes. Zu Schrift gebracht durch Abdelkaaba Abdallah Abu-Bekr, übertragen durch L. Goldschmidt 8 vol. pp. 651. Berlin. 1922.

A new translation in most attractive, compact form, with thirty pages of critical notes, issued as first number in a series *die Bibeln der Völker*. The opening Surah is illuminated in gilt and colors, and the six hundred pages of the text are printed in clear Roman letters on India paper; and the notes are helpful. The translation as far as we have examined it is superior to the earlier translations by Schweigger, Megerlin, Arnold, Boyser, Wahl (1828) and Ullman (1853). When Goldschmidt, however, reads *Al 'Aalimun* for *Al 'Aalimin*, in the first Surah, and translates it by *men* instead of *worlds*; when he derives *Surah* from *sar*, "to leap forward"; and worse still, translates *ra'ana* (Surah 4) "Look at us"—we fear he has been caught napping. His translation is mostly famous for having first appeared in a "Luxusausgabe" limited to 200 copies, folio, in 1916. A cheaper edition followed in 1920, and this is a later edition of the same. Z.

**The Campaign in Mesopotamia.** (1914-1918). Vol. I. By Brig. Gen. F. J. Moberly. H. M. Stationery Office. London. 1923. Price 15s. net. pp. 402.

This volume in the series of official reports on the war gives a detailed account of conditions before the outbreak of hostilities in Mesopotamia. The second part, page 99 to the end, tells of the campaign from the earliest landing at Basra until the battle of Kut. Other volumes are to follow. The book contains seven excellent maps and three aeroplane views of Qurna, Ahwaz and Nasiriya. No mention is made of the service rendered to the British forces by the American Mission through their hospital facilities. There is an exhaustive index of forty pages.

**L'Histoire de l'Asie** par René Grousset. 3 vols. Paris: 1922. Third edition. pp. v. 308; x. 400; viii. 486.

Recently we had occasion to notice in this Review M. Grousset's *La Philosophie Orientale* 1922; a work which gave us a taste for the task of reviewing these solid volumes of Oriental History. M. Grousset is nothing if not interesting, and in his easy style takes us at rapid pace across great vistas of Asiatic life and movement from the Chaldaeans at the dawn of history to the Japanese Revolution of our own century.

The first volume will be of most interest to readers of the **MOSLEM WORLD**, as it vividly describes the condition of the Hellenistic and the Sassanian empires in the seventh century of our era, and takes up the history of Islam. The author does not linger long on the origin of Islam (in a history of all Asia we could hardly expect this), but he does make the point, which is being more and more stressed by modern scholars, that "le conquête de l'Orient par la race arabe ne date pas de Mahomet"; and in a note in the appendix he reveals the fact that he accepts Caetani's position that the great wave of Mohammedan conquest in the seventh and eighth centuries was only the latest of many waves of immigration that have proceeded from Arabia.

From the Arab period he passes on to the history of the Persian period, commencing with the Abbasids. Then follows the Turkish period up to the time of the Crusades. Two long sections of great interest on the Crusades then follow, and the last section of volume one takes up the Empire of the Ottomans.

Volume two has nothing that particularly interests the student of Islam; but the first three chapters of volume three, dealing with the Mongols, Persia, and Moslem India, he will find of great interest, if only for the clear bird's-eye view which they give of Islamic civilization during this period.

There is nothing remarkably new in what M. Grousset tells us, and in making so wide a survey he has not escaped some of the pitfalls all makers of surveys must be wary of; but he has produced a readable history which has utilized to an unusual degree the most recent research work on Oriental history. Unfortunately the volumes have no indices, and the maps are the most wretched hand sketches one could imagine. Surely a work of this size and value deserves better cartography than this.

ARTHUR JEFFERY.

**Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages**, by deLacy O'Leary, D.D. London, 1923. Kegan Paul. 10/6 net.

The English language has had to wait long for a successor to Wright's *Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages*, which appeared in 1890; and it still has to wait, for the volume before us is quite unworthy of English scholarship, not to speak of Semitic scholarship in general. It is the work of a compiler, not of a scholar; and is entirely and slavishly dependent upon such work as that of Brockelmann, and the book teems with inaccuracies.

The author's bibliography is singular both for what it includes and for what it leaves out. One hardly knows what to think of a writer on Semitics who, in his Hebrew section, includes Curtiss' edition of Bickell and omits König's *Lehrgebäude* and Bauer and Leander's great *Historische Grammatik*; and who apparently knows nothing of Torezner nor Reekendorf, and who includes Nairlle's work on Semitic-Hamitic relationships while unaware of the brilliant studies of Meinhof and his fellow workers.

The book reads like a series of classroom lectures, and would lead one to guess that its author had simply prepared for publication these lectures on Comparative Semitic Grammar given to his students at Bristol. In the hands of a competent teacher who could control its inaccuracies, this book might well form the basis of an elementary course in comparative Semitics.

ARTHUR JEFFERY.