

Statistical abstract for the Netherlands East Indies and general information for travellers. The best source for the distribution and the census of Islam in this part of the world. Invaluable for reference.

**Hesperis.** Archives Berbères et Bulletin de l'Institut des Hautes-Études Marocaines. Année 1926. 2me-3me Trimestre. Librairie Larose, Paris. Tome VI. pp. 326.

This is perhaps the most sumptuous of periodicals on the world of Islam. The present issue contains the third of a series of articles by the late Henri Basset, with the collaboration of Henri Terrasse, on the "Sanctuaires et forteresses almohades." This article deals with "Le minaret de la Kotobiya," and the pulpit of that ancient mosque.

The Mosque of Qusba is also described in great detail. The article is accompanied by twenty-four full page plates and sixty-five smaller illustrations. To the student of Islamic art it will prove of special interest.

A shorter article by J. Célièrier with map and photographs describes Wady El Abid in Morocco.

The bibliography for this quarter is not as full as usual.

**Le Monde Oriental.** Archives pour l'histoire et l'ethnographie, les langues et littératures, religions et traditions de l'Europe orientale et de l'Asie, by K. V. Zetterstéen. Uppsala. A.-B. Lundequistska Bokhandeln. Vol. XXI. Fasc. 1-3. 1927. pp. 264.

We call attention to this number because of two articles that will interest our readers, one by Sven Dederind on "Abu Nu'aim's Memoirs of Isfahan" (pages 186 to 192), the other by Ignatius Kratschkovsky "Die Literatur der Arabischen Emigranten in Amerika 1895-1915."

It is significant that a Russian Orientalist should write in a Swedish publication on Arabic literature published in America.

**Manuel de Genealogie et de Chronologie pour l'Histoire de l'Islam.** xii. 388 pages de texte in-4 avec 20 tableaux généalogiques hors texte et cartes. By E. de Zambaur. Price 250 fr. H. Lafaïre, Hannover.

Table des matières: i. Khalifat. ii. Amsar. iii. Espagne. iv. Afrique. v. Egypte et Syrie. vi. Arabie. vii. Iraq et Mesopotamie. viii. Asie Mineure et Empire Ottoman. ix. Caucase et Mer Caspienne. x. Perse et Transoxane. xi. Seldjuqs et Atabeks. xii. Mongols. xiii. Perse après les Mongols. xiv. Transoxane. xv. Inde.

The contents given above indicate the character of a volume, which is of great importance. The author claims that his work is a supplement to, or rather a correction of, the well known manual by S. Lane Poole on "Mohammedan Dynasties." He has covered the same ground, but with numerous additions and corrections, most of which seem to be supported by recent critical studies.

Z.

**Baghdad.** The City of Peace. By Richard Coke. pp. 343. Price 21sh. Thornton Butterworth, London.

An admirable historical account of the Eastern capital of the Caliphate, written in simple and graphic words and in a style that holds the reader's attention from first to last. We have already reviewed in our

Quarterly an earlier work by the same author entitled "The Heart of the Middle East." This book is a comprehensive history of Mesopotamia. Now we have as a supplement the story of Baghdad. Founded in A. D. 762 by the Caliph Mansur, "the story of the City of Peace is largely the story of continuous war; where there is not war, there is pestilence, famine and civil disturbance. Such is the paradox which cynical history has written across the high aims implied in the name bestowed upon the city." "Few cities of the first rank have undergone so many and so violent changes of fortune as the City of Peace. Younger by many centuries than Athens, Rome, Constantinople or even London, Baghdad has suffered one long succession of ups and downs, from insignificance to wealth and power and back again to poverty. In a life of under twelve hundred years, she has served as the heart of a world civilization, the pontifical seat of a universal religion, a provincial capital of the Mongols, a bone of contention between Turcoman tribes, a Persian possession, a Turkish colonial town, an outpost of the British Empire, and the metropolis of a youthful Arab State. The city has moved her site twice, and been besieged, captured and lost again innumerable times; while even her days of comparative calm have been subject to continual interruption by fratricidal quarrels on the part of her hot-headed and turbulent sons."

Mr. Coke has apportioned the material at his disposal fairly; beginning at the "halcyon days" of the Caliph, to trace the slow decline of Baghdad, the period under the later Abbasids, and coming to the Mongol flood which overwhelmed the city. He then tells of the history under the Ilkhans, the first and second Turkish periods, the story of the great Slave Pashas, the fall of the Mamluks and the last period of Turkish corruption and misrule ending in the siege of Baghdad during the World War, and the revival of the city under the new Irak Government. "And so the story closes on a note of hope. The upheaval caused by the war is settling down to a condition of quiet, and it is to be hoped solid progress, in which Baghdad, as a modern city, is learning to play her part in that world civilization to which all mankind is now increasingly committed. Old ideas are giving place to new; the city, long since confined by adverse circumstances practically to the circuit of its own town walls, is beginning to stretch outward, to co-ordinate its life by means of railway, telegraph, road and air with the life of other human settlements thousands of miles away." There are necessarily omissions in the last chapter. Nothing is said of the work of Christian missions on educational and medical lines. The importance of the Jewish population of Baghdad is touched upon, but not adequately. Fourteen excellent illustrations—many of them from photographs by the Royal Air Force—add to the attractiveness of the book.

**Maker of Modern Arabia:** The Story of Ibn Saoud. By Ameen Rihani. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York. 1928. 370 Illustrated. Price \$6.00.

This is rather an unusual book. It is written by a Syrian Christian, a naturalized citizen of the United States, and concerns a dominant personality in Arabia. The story of the "Maker of Modern Arabia", H. M. King Abdul-Aziz, Ibn Saoud, is told in very excellent and racy English

and is accompanied with a wide range of observation in Syria, Iraq and Arabia. The author made himself *persona grata* with both Arabs and Europeans. He goes first to Baghdad under restrictions that discourage his primary purpose of travelling in Arabia, and there interviews Miss Gertrude Bell, the well-known Oriental Secretary of the High Commissioner, Sir Percy Cox, whom also he sees and with whom he journeys to Arabia for the historic conference there with the King of the Hejaz. This conference was ostensibly for the purpose of settling certain disputed boundaries, but in reality to form an alliance that would safeguard both in the Near and Middle East. Mr. Rihani's account of it is therefore history. The book contains also a portrait full length, personal and political, of probably the greatest living Arab, the man who regained the kingdom which his grandfather had lost, and who did it by a somewhat remarkable combination of courage and statesmanship. He first captured Riyadh with only twenty men, and then proceeded to lay the foundations for a new kingdom extending from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. This remarkable achievement places Ibn Saoud among legendary Arab heroes.

Mr. Rihani's picture of the Wahabi, the Moslem Puritans of whom Ibn Saoud is the religious head as well as the temporal ruler, is evidently authoritative and puts this book above the range of the usual treatises of travel and observation. The Wahabi are not a very pleasant people, but they are certainly interesting. For intolerance and single-mindedness they are unique. Smoking and drinking, and even more innocent amusement, are anathema. Coercion is used and recalcitrance is severely punished. It is the more remarkable that out of this intolerance, while using it, Ibn Saoud has built a powerful and well-organized state. By administering justice to rich and poor, friends and enemies alike, Ibn Saoud has won, and holds, the confidence and loyalty of his fanatical followers.

This book also contains other rich material, stirring accounts of caravan marches and of great cities in the southern desert. The descriptions of flora and fauna and of the topography of the country give it additional value. The book is profuse with illustrations and contains a very good index.

WM. I. CHAMBERLAIN.

## SURVEY OF PERIODICALS

BY MISS HOLLIS W. HERING

*Missionary Research Library, New York*

### I. GENERAL.

L'ALLEMAGNE ET LES QUESTIONS DE TUNISIE, DU MAROC ET D'EGYPTE DE 1879 A 1884. F. Charles-Roux. (In *L'Afrique Française*, Paris. Renseignements Coloniaux. June, 1928, pp. 345-355.)

An examination of the far-sighted, if not prophetic, diplomacy of Bismarck as related to North Africa.

BERICHT UBER DIE ARABISCHEN STUDIEN IN RUSSLAND WAHREND DER JAHRE 1914-1920. W. Ebermann. (In *Islamica*, Leipzig. Vol. III, fasc. 2, pp. 229-264.)

Somewhat in the nature of an annotated and classified catalogue of publications.

THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTHEASTERN ARABIA. G. M. Lees. (In *The Geographical Journal*, London, May, 1928, pp. 441-470.)

A paper read at a meeting of the Society, illustrated with photographs and sketch maps, followed by a brief bibliography.

L'UNIVERSITE D'EL-AZHAR ET SES TRANSFORMATIONS. Achille Sikaly. (In *La Revue des Etudes Islamiques*, Paris, 1927, cashier I., pp. 95-118; cashier IV., 465-529.)

The first two instalments of a detailed and extended investigation.

### II. ISLAM IN ARABIA.

GREAT BRITAIN'S ADJUSTMENTS WITH THE ARAB WORLD. Leonard Stein. (In *Current History*, New York, August, 1928, pp. 745-750.)

Traces briefly but clearly the political relations between Great Britain and Iraq, Trans-jordania, Nejd, and the Yemen.

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN ARABIA. Alois Musil. (In *Foreign Affairs*, New York, July, 1928, pp. 675-681.)

A clear analysis of the rise and present position of Abd al Aziz Ibn Saoud, and how far his empire is dependent upon the Ekwan.

THE TROUBLE IN ARABIA. St. John Philby. (In *The Contemporary Review*, London, June, 1928, pp. 705-715.)

A survey of the recent frontier troubles, setting forth in all fairness and sympathy Ibn Saoud's side of the question, and asking for honorable and fair play on the part of the English press and the Iraq government.

### III. HISTORY OF ISLAM.

### IV. KORAN, TRADITIONS, THEOLOGY.

ISLAM'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN AND ORPHANS. C. A. Soorma. (In *The Islamic Review*, Woking, July, 1928, pp. 249-254.)

The opening chapter of a series of articles, this one dealing with the position of woman under the Roman law.

MUHAMMAD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. Abdulahad Davoud. (In *The Islamic Review*, Woking, June, 1928, pp. 196-206; July, pp. 235-242.)

A series of articles intended to show that the doctrine of Islam concerning the Deity and Mohammed is not only true, but conforms to the teaching of the Bible.

RATIONALISMUS UND TRADITION IM MOHAMMEDANISCHEN RECHT. Bruno Ducati. (In *Islamica*, Leipzig, vol. III., fasc. 2, pp. 214-228.)

A careful summary, but with curiously few bibliographical references.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE. R. Lissan. (In *The Islamic Review*, Woking, June, 1928, pp. 206-216.)

After treating of penance in Christianity, points out that according to the Islamic viewpoint there is no need for any mediator between the penitent and God. This article is followed in the July issue by one on the sacrament of matrimony.

### V. RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL LIFE.

ARAB NATIONALISM IN IRAQ AND PALESTINE. (In *The Asiatic Review*, London, July, 1928, pp. 397-402.)

Analyzes the fundamental characteristics of the Arab nationalist feeling and shows why, although Great Britain's friends are numerous, her active protagonists are few.

BEDOUIN JUSTICE. Arthur Henry Roberts. (In *Asia*, New York, August, 1928, pp. 601-605, 666, 667.)

A well-told, dramatic little incident illustrating the implacable demands of Bedouin justice.

SIDELIGHTS ON PERSIAN SOCIETY. H. Gascoigne Hart. (In *The Nineteenth Century*, London, July, 1928, pp. 118-129.)

Informal comments on phases of the ordinary life of the people which are markedly different from Western customs.

## VI. POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS.

LE CONFLIT ANGLO-EGYPTIEN DE MARS-MAI, 1928. René Thierry. In *L'Afrique française*, Paris, May, 1928, pp. 168-181.)

A detailed and clear exposition of the crisis, with full quotations from the official documents.

EGYPT'S AGITATION AGAINST BRITISH DOMINATION. David R. Moore. (In *Current History*, New York, July, 1928, pp. 580-584.)

A clear summary of both sides of a complicated situation.

THE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE OF PERSIA. Edgar Turlington. (In *Foreign Affairs*, New York, July, 1928, pp. 658-667.)

A review of the work of the American Financial Mission, and of how it was wrecked by politics.

MY SHARE IN THE TURKISH ORDEAL. Halidé Edib Hanim. (In *Asia*, New York, June, 1928, pp. 437-443, 509-515; July, pp. 570-576, 588-592; August, pp. 638-645, 654-661.)

These three chapters deal respectively with the flight from Constantinople to Angora, the rising star of Mustapha Kemal, and some tragic private destinies viewed against the public background of war. To be continued.

TURKEY IN THE WORLD WAR. Theodor von Sosnosky. (In *The Contemporary Review*, June, 1928, pp. 716-722.)

A survey of the relations "behind the scenes" between Turkey and the Central Powers, as shown in *Der Zusammenbruch des Ottomanischen Reiches*, by Lieut. Field Marshall Joseph Pomanowsky.

TURKEY—YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW. H. Charles Woods. (In *The Quarterly Review*, London, April, 1928, pp. 368-384.)

A masterly survey of seven books, giving an excellent outline of recent Turkish history, and probable trends in political and social life there.

## VII. MISSIONS TO MOHAMMEDANS.

DIE AUSEINANDERSETZUNG ZWISCHEN EVANGELIUM UND ISLAM AUF DEM BODEN DES ANIMISTISCHEN HEIDENTUMS. (In *Neue Allgemeine Missionszeitschrift*, Gütersloh, May, 1928, pp. 148-158.)