

A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental MSS. Belonging to the Late E. G. Browne. By Edward G. Browne; completed and edited with a Memoir of the Author and a Bibliography of his Writings by Reynold A. Nicholson. The Macmillan Co., New York; Cambridge University Press, London. pp. 325. \$13.

All Orientalists will regret that Professor Browne did not live to finish the Catalogue of his Oriental MSS. on which he had been engaged for several years before his last illness. It is now published in sumptuous form by his literary executors. "It was his thirst for knowledge, and the depth and breadth of his interest in Islam, that created the Collection and gave it so much of the personal character and individuality that we find everywhere in his writings, just as it was his study of the materials which he gradually accumulated in the course of his life-work that enabled him to strike off from the familiar highways of Orientalism and penetrate into regions hitherto little known or altogether unexplored."

The total number of Manuscripts included in this Catalogue is four hundred and sixty-eight. They are classified into Koran Commentaries, Works on Theology, the Shaykhi and Babi Sects, General History, Biography, Geography, Medicine, Persian poetry, etc. By far the larger number deal with the poetry of Persia and the Rise of the Babi Movement. In the introduction we have a sketch of Dr. Browne's life and a complete bibliography of his own writings. The titles of the manuscripts, and in many cases extracts from them, appear in Persian text. There is a full double index, Persian and English, to the entire collection. One can only admire the superlative work of the Cambridge University Press in the preparation of the volume. Z.

Palästina: Land und Wirtschaft. By Alfred Bonne. Deutsche Wissenschaftliche Buchhandlung, Leipzig, Germany, 1932. pp. 285. 14 R.M.

We take pleasure in commending this excellent monograph on present-day Palestine, its economic, agricultural, and industrial resources. The author was director of the Economic Archives for the Near East in Jerusalem. The volume tells of the extraordinary progress made since the War, and has a number of statistical tables, diagrams, maps, and sixty photographic illustrations. Trans-Jordania is left out of the Survey. It will astonish the reader to learn that the orange industry has developed within the last two decades, until now nearly three million cases of oranges are exported from Palestine annually. Z.

Legends of Palestine. By Zev Vilnay. The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1932. pp. 492.

This collection of folklore on Palestine is of extraordinary interest. The present collection is a translation, with additions, from the Hebrew volume published by the same author, under the title "Agadot Erez Yisrael," which appeared in London in 1929. The stories as given are from Hebrew and Arabic sources, both literary and oral. They cover a wide period of Jewish history including Palestine after the Mohammedan conquest. The sources of the legends are given in detail (pp. 431-480) in references to Hebrew and Arabic authors. Of the 217 legends a large proportion deals with the geography of Palestine and Jerusalem; others, with the Wailing Wall, the Graves and Shrines near Jerusalem,

Bethlehem, Hebron, etc. Of special interest to our readers are the legends connected with the Mosque of Omar and the stories connected with the Koran. Here, for example, is a legend of the Oven of Mother Eve, referred to in the Koran (11:40, 23:27): "Among the ruins of the hill where the city of Gezer stood, a long tunnel of one hundred and thirty feet is hewn out. This tunnel is like an oven; and they say that this was the oven of Eve and here she baked her loaves. This oven had been handed down through the ages from one patriarch's wife to another until the time of Noah. When, in the days of Noah the righteous, the foundations of the deep burst forth and the earth was flooded, a stream of water flowed from Eve's oven as well, flooding all the land of Judah." The 69 illustrations found in the book are of unequal value. Z.

Texts and Studies in Jewish History and Literature. By Jacob Mann. Vol. I., Hebrew Union College Press, 1931, pp. xvi + 728 including 27 facsimiles.

In this valuable volume we have a first-hand picture of Jewish life in the Middle Ages as found in the countries under the sway of Islam. While the Jews of that period lived their own communal lives in devotion to their traditional ideals, some rose to distinction and influence, as Hisdai ibn Shaprūt, the treasurer of 'Abd ar-Rahmān III. An important factor in Mediæval Jewry under Islam was Karaism, which extended also to Christian countries. On page 313 is found a reference to the collapse of the dome of the Mosque al Aḳsa as the result of an earthquake in 1016 A. D., when Solomon B. Yehudah uttered a prayerful wish that "a permanent building" be soon erected in its stead, i. e., the Jewish Temple at the Messianic age. While the volume is primarily of Jewish interest, it throws many valuable side-lights on Islamic history, not only in the Orient, but also in Spain, and is therefore to be recommended to those who wish to correlate Jewish and Moslem history.

HENRY S. GEHMAN.

L'Italia e l'Arabia Centrale. By Ugo Bassi, in Quaderni di Politica Estera e Coloniale, N. 2. E. Bassi & Nipoti, Modena, 1932. pp. 53. lire 3.

We find in this pamphlet a résumé of Wahhabism, which is followed by a brief account of the rise of Ibn Saoud and his relations with foreign nations. The book concludes with the text of the treaty between Italy and the King of the Hijaz, the Nejd, and its dependencies; three pages of Bibliography are given at the end of the book.

H. S. G.

L'Italia e la Nuova Turchia. By Ugo Bassi, in Quaderni di Politica Estero e Coloniale, N. 3. E. Bassi & Nipoti, Modena, 1932. pp. 56. lire 3.

We have in this presentation a brief history of the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of the New Turkey, and the present relations between Turkey and Italy. The text of recent treaties between Italy and Turkey is included. Three pages of Bibliography conclude the work.

H. S. G.

SURVEY OF PERIODICALS

BY SUE MOLLESON FOSTER
Missionary Research Library

I. GENERAL.

CONTACTS AVEC L'ISLAM, PAR XXX. (In *En Terre d'Islam*, Alger. November-December, 1932. pp. 363-368.)

Entertaining notes on people seen and talked with in visits to the mosques of Cairo by a Christian interested in Islam.

ELIAS RIGGS—A PIONEER IN TURKEY. Charles Trowbridge Riggs. (In *The Missionary Review of the World*, New York. January, 1933. pp. 30-32.)

A sketch of sixty-eight years of active mission service, 1832-1901.

A GREAT MUSLIM NATIONALIST. St. Nihal Singh. (In *The Modern Review*, Calcutta, December, 1932. pp. 616-624.)

Personal and political reminiscences of Sir Syed Ali Iman.

THE TOUAREG BEFORE TOURISM. Robert du Chalieu. (In *Asia*, New York. December, 1932. pp. 649-654: 661-663.)

Continuation of an article begun in the November, 1932, issue.

A TOUR THROUGH MUSLIM LANDS. Sir Abdul Karim Ghaznavi. (In *The Islamic Review*, Woking. November, 1932. pp. 391-396; December, 1932. pp. 436-438.)

First and second numbers of a series.

II. ARABIA.

THE ANCIENT AND MODERN INHABITANTS OF ARABIA. Henry Field. (In *The Open Court*, Chicago. December, 1932. pp. 847-871.)

Data are scarce but point to three basic stocks—Mediterranean, Armenoid and Negroid.

AN EXPEDITION TO TA'IZ. P. W. R. Petrie. (In *The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society Quarterly Paper*, Edinburgh. August, 1932. pp. 150-155; November, 1932. pp. 181-185.)

Intimate picture of this section of the Yemen.

IN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA'S KINGDOM. K. S. Twitchell. (In *Asia*, New York. January, 1933. pp. 5-9: 63-67.)

Account of an expedition, conducted under the auspices of Charles R. Crane, to examine mineral and agricultural resources in the Yemen for its ruler, Imam Yahya.

LITERARY LIFE IN THE ARABIC PENINSULA. Taha Hussein, translated from the Arabic by Martin Sprengling. (In *The Open Court*, Chicago. December, 1932. pp. 828-846.)

"... Arabia at present encompasses two widely different types of intellectual life: one conservative, held fast in the grasp of ignorance and widespread illiteracy; the other modernist, steadily rising by the force of its connection with Europe and advanced Islamic lands."

MYSTERIOUS ARABIA MODERNIZES. M. Sprengling. (In *The Open Court*, Chicago. December, 1932. pp. 793-805.)

Sketches the slow penetration into the country by explorers, from ancient times to the end of the nineteenth century, and stresses the rapid advance made thus far in the twentieth century.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ARABIA. Ameen Rihani. (In *The Open Court*, Chicago. December, 1932. pp. 806-827.)

Discusses problems in the various sections of the country, and finds least discontent and most unified advance in the states under Ibn Sa'oud and the Imam Yahya, which are freer from foreign intervention.

RUB' AL KHALI. H. St. J. B. Philby. (In the *Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society*, London. October, 1932. pp. 569-586.)

Explorations, in the Great South Desert of Arabia, searching for an ancient, buried city, Wabar, which proved to be only meteoritic craters.

III. HISTORY OF ISLAM.

ABU BAKR, THE TRUTHFUL. Ahmed Shafi. (In *The Indian Review*, Calcutta. October, 1932. pp. 705-710.)

A boyhood friend of Mohammed and the first Caliph, he was an exemplary ruler, tolerant to Christians.

IV. KORAN. TRADITIONS. THEOLOGY.

RASĀ'IL IḲHWAN AŞ-ŞAFĀ IN THE LITERATURE OF THE ISMĀ'ĪLĪ TĀIYIBĪ DA'WĀT. Ḥusain F. al-Hamdānī. (In *Der Islam*, Berlin. Band 20, Heft 4 (Schlusheft) pp. 281-300.)

Dissertation on the authorship and character of this important work.

THE TA'RĪKH AL-ISLAM OF ADH-DHAHABĪ. Joseph De Somogyi. (In *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, London. October, 1932. pp. 815-855.)

Discusses separation between political history and historical biography in Arabic literature. To a brief biography of adh-Dhahabī is added a catalogue of his writings and of the manuscripts of the Ta'rikh al-Islām, with an analysis of the latter. A chronicle is made