

Egyptians which would welcome the immediate retirement of all foreign judges from the Egyptian service. My knowledge of the men who are now in power in Egypt, confirmed as it is by the sobriety of judgment shown by them in not attempting to make a clean slate of the past, tells me that they recognize that Egypt has, if I may so speak, a great deal of capital invested in the brains and the experience of these foreign judges, and that these brains and this experience may profitably be used in the great task of making the new State worthy of its best traditions.

All periods of transition are necessary beset with pitfalls. Egypt was for centuries a vassal of Turkey and was then ruled from Constantinople. The genius of Ismail won for his country an autonomy which bore a close resemblance to independence. This progress towards self-government was arrested and the clock set back, in so far as independence is concerned, when Arabi's revolution was followed by the British occupation.

The Mixed Courts were not affected by this somewhat prolonged interlude. It strikes me that the self-restraint shown by Mustafa Nahas and his colleagues, when tasting the first sweets of independence, is a guarantee that in adjusting their state to its new orbit they are prepared to make use of the capital outlay in brains and experience made available to them by the presence of these foreign judges.

Such conservation of the energy and knowledge of these jurists will bear fruit in encouraging foreign money to continue to flow into Egypt. It will not imply any diminution of Egypt's independence or symbolize any recognition of the Capitulations. All that it will mean is that the Egyptian Ministry is dominated by practical men who believe in taking advantage of a golden opportunity to facilitate the successful administration of the new Kingdom.

Cairo, Egypt

PIERRE CRABITES.

BOOK REVIEWS

Arabs of Central Iraq. Their History, Ethnology, and Physical Characters. By Henry Field. Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Kish, Iraq. 156 plates, 48 text figures, 3 maps. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, 1935. pp. 474, plates clvi.

This sumptuous quarto with its wealth of photographic illustration (156 plates) is a real contribution to anthropology, and of considerable importance to all who love the Arabs and live among them. No race has exerted a greater influence on the history of western Asia and North Africa. No race (except the Jew) has made a stronger religious impact on the nations, than has this race through Islam. Sir Arthur Keith raises the question in his Introduction:

"How does the Arab stand with regard to other races of mankind? On entering into this inquiry we must note the relationship of Arabia to adjacent racial frontiers. The Red Sea separates the great Arabian peninsula from the Hamitic peoples of Africa, many of which, to be sure, have received Arab infusion. Arabia is separated from the mainland of Asia by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. This inlet of the Indian Ocean is also a racial frontier separating the Arab from a people not remotely akin to him, people of the Indo-Afghan type. Also, in the north the base of the peninsula abuts on another racial frontier, the southern frontier of the main or purer Caucasian stock. Then away in the east are the peoples of India, who have many other resemblances to the Arab besides a dark brown skin and dark brown or black hair. If we presume that the modern stocks of mankind have been evolved in or near the regions which they now occupy then we ought to find that the Arab has an evolutionary relationship to all surrounding peoples. That is what we have found in the course of our analysis."

The detailed evidence for these conclusions is based upon anthropometric data collected by Mr. Field during 1928 at Kish, Iraq. His elaborate report "begins to bridge a hiatus in modern anthropology." Its scope is evident when we learn that 667 individuals were "measured", including Arabs or Kish, Iraq soldiers, and men of the Baij Bedouin tribe.

Evidences of prehistoric culture at Kish are abundant. Professor Stephen Langdon contributes some paragraphs to show that here was the first capital of the Sumerians after the flood. The present social life and customs bear traces of this oldest culture. And after turning these pages of diagrams, data, and photographs, one is fascinated by the possibilities of such study:

"Our interest in the ancient inhabitants of Arabia, particularly of the northern plain, has been stimulated by the expectation that

we shall yet be able to prove that our modern way of living—our modern civilization—was initiated by a people or peoples living on or near the frontier of northern Arabia. Were the pioneers of civilization really Arabs (Semites)? Or were they of the less deeply pigmented Caucasian stock farther to the north? We have little evidence to sway us either way, but the only real difference I can perceive between the ancient Mesopotamians of Kish (fourth millennium B. C.) and the modern Arabs of central Iraq relates to size of skull and brain. The average cranial capacity of the ancient Mesopotamian or Arab exceeded that of the average modern inhabitant of central Iraq. I expect that it will yet be proved that the Arab of today is the descendant of the men who built the ancient cities and early civilization along the Euphrates and Tigris rivers."

S. M. ZWEMER.

Moslem Women Enter a New World. Ruth Frances Woodsmall. Round Table Press, Inc., New York, 1936. 431 pp. \$3.

One of the most timely and useful books of recent years is Miss Woodsmall's survey of the existing status of Mohammedan women. Few, if any, women of either the East or the West are as conversant with the Near East situation as this author. Y.W.C.A. service in the Near East for nine years after the World War was followed by a Travelling Fellowship of the Rockefeller Foundation, during the course of which she journeyed through Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, and Transjordan, across the Syrian desert to Mosul and Baghdad, over the Iraq border and on through Iran into India. This intimate contact with Moslem women and their problems has been amplified recently by a long-range view from Miss Woodsmall's vantage point at Y.W.C.A. headquarters in Geneva.

In the foreword one discovers that the title is somewhat misleading, for in reality Miss Woodsmall is writing not of Moslem women alone, but of all women in the countries of the Near East and India, which plan omits any consideration of the millions of Moslem women in Africa, outside of Egypt, in China, in the East Indies, and in the Soviet Union. Then on careful reading it is discovered that Miss Woodsmall, for the most part, bases her observations on the women living in the cities. We must realize, therefore, that we have in this volume what might be termed a symptomatic snapshot of the situation of the women of the Near East and India who were living in the cities between 1920 and 1935. As the author so properly points out, the situation is changing so rapidly that even since the manuscript was written in its final form some of the progressive women described in such detail have already progressed another step or two ahead.

The volume itself is divided into six parts, as follows: Frontiers of Social Change; Education—The Key to Progress; The New Economic Role of Moslem Women; Health Standards Old and New; The Widening Sphere of Moslem Women's Interests; The Pressure of Change on Islam Today. Following this we find a conclusion on East and West, which in many respects is the best part of the survey. In an Appendix, the principal Koranic teaching about women as interpreted by a Syrian Sheik is given.