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rapid mastery of the language, tact, and enthusiasm triumphed over many difficulties, and his tragic death deprived the Mesopotamian civil service of one of its ablest officers.

The country and its inhabitants are vividly described. The Arab is portrayed as "an inconsequent mixture of the knight of chivalry, the high-spirited child, and the fawning, false-tongued Oriental; he is essentially not an Oriental at all, and his mind, like that of the Jew, is European compared with the Eastern races. Altogether he is a funny customer; and the hardest thing about him is that he doesn't really know his own mind, and has only the vaguest idea of what he wants, beyond the one common to all mankind, that wealth would pour down upon him without labour from the skies." In another letter, which proved prophetic, Mann wrote, "I believe that we can build up an Arab Government; I think it is a task of extreme difficulty and profoundly worth attempting; but I am sure that you must give us time. We shall pay for it by being occasionally murdered; and you at home will have to endure taunts of Imperialism, perfidy, and the like. If you insist in turning us out you will let loose incalculable forces of destruction." E. H. K.

Among Primitive Peoples in Borneo.— I. H. N. Evans. London: Seeley, Service & Co. 1922. *Map and Illustrations.* 21s. net.

This book contains an account of the native tribes inhabiting the north-west part of British North Borneo, and is largely devoted to a detailed description of the *Dusuns*, who form the greater part of the population of the interior of the British North Borneo Company's Territory. The author as a former official was brought into intimate relation with the natives, who evidently much interested him apart from his duties, for he admits cherishing a great affection for them. Consequently he treats his subject in a very sympathetic manner, and the physical character, temperament, good points and weaknesses, and the daily life of the Dusuns are brought vividly before us. The name *Orang Dusun*, or "people of the orchards," given them by others, though not recognized by themselves, is indicative of their life in villages surrounded by coconut palms and fruit trees. Long-headed Indonesians, those living in the more remote villages, and in consequence least affected by white and Chinese "civilization," still afford an excellent opportunity for the study of a primitive people. The author's description of their dress, ornaments, food, houses, domestic life and amusements, of their methods of agriculture, fishing, hunting and trading, their marriage and burial customs, and industries of weaving, basketry, pottery, and iron-working, are full of interest for the anthropologist. Two objects are curiously interesting, viz. gongs and jars. Metal gongs, though not made by them, are much valued, and serve as a sort of currency. In the district of Tuaran there exists a cult of the sacred jars, each of which has an indwelling spirit. Those known as *Gusi* are large jars of ancient Chinese porcelain. Jar burial is characteristic of the Dusuns. Every good Dusun wishes to be buried in a jar, which in its turn is buried in the ground, but at no great depth, so that the tops often show above the soil.

The religion of the Dusuns is distinctly animistic for they believe that all objects, animate and inanimate, have an indwelling spirit. The Dusun has a somewhat hazy belief in a superior deity called *Kenharingan*, who with his wife, *Munsumundoh*, created the world and everything in it. A curious rite illustrating their animistic belief is the yearly launching of a small raft or boat with offerings on it in order to bear away from the village troublesome spirits supposed to have assembled on the raft to partake of the offerings.

The other tribes described at length are the *Illanuns* and *Bajans*, inhabiting

the western coast. They are of Malay origin, or, as it is usual to say now, proto-Malay. The Bajans are also found on the eastern coast, where their mode of life has gained for them the name of Sea-gypsies. These peoples compare unfavourably with the Dusuns, for whilst the latter are good agriculturists, hard working and honest, with however an unfortunate fondness for immoderate drinking of their home-made liquor, the Illanuns and Bajans are by nature truculent swashbucklers, and the most inveterate gamblers, their only redeeming quality being a fondness for sport. The Illanuns were notorious in the past as sea-robbers and pirates in the neighbouring seas, and the Bajans were not much better. They are nominally Mohammedans, but the mantle of the Prophet rests lightly upon them, the women having much freedom and going unveiled.

The chapter entitled "Antiquities" is rather disappointing, for the author's finds appear to have been little more than a few stone implements of neolithic type, and some chert flakes. The site of what may have been a neolithic village was partially excavated.

A chapter is given to the subject of the Chinese in Borneo, in which is discussed the interesting question how far the racial character of the natives has been influenced by the Chinese, who for many centuries have settled more or less in North Borneo, and by whom at the present time most of the trading and mining is carried on. Mr. Evans' inquiries certainly point to the conclusion that this influence has been very small.

The artistic sense of these tribes is shown in the patterns and ornamentation introduced into their woven fabrics and basketry.

An outline map is provided of the north-west district of North Borneo, but unfortunately it is very inadequately filled in.

E. A. P.

AFRICA

Up Against it in Nigeria.— "**Langa-Langa.**" London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 1922. *Illustrations.* Pp. 244. *Price 18s. net.*

Langa-Langa has given us an amusing account of his varied experiences as a political officer in the Northern Provinces of Nigeria. In lifting the veil which too often obscures the work of administrative officers in remote parts of the empire the author introduces the reader to many noted characters—both white and black. There are several charming character sketches, written with a kindly humour, of brother officers in a service which has achieved so much in two decades, but at the cost of many valued lives.

Although the object of the book is to divert, and not to instruct, it should be read by any one proposing to take up an administrative appointment in West Africa. Not only does it give a very good account of the campaigning conditions under which so much of the political work has to be done, but it contains much sound advice on all manner of subjects ranging from the conduct of punitive patrols against truculent pagan tribes and the hanging of criminals down to the shooting of big game and the idiosyncrasies of native servants. Not the least pleasing feature of the book is the author's keen appreciation of the work of his brother officers, combined with marked reticence on his own achievements.

The book will naturally appeal most keenly to readers acquainted with Nigeria, but it is so full of good stories and tales of real adventure that it may be safely recommended to the general reader. It is well illustrated with photographs, and contains a good map.

E. W. B.