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Review: Zanzibar

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As regards the shores of Lake Kivu, which he surveyed with so much perseverance, Dr. Kandt gives likewise much new information. But it is not only for its delineation of natural features that the book is of interest. The author has much to say on the peoples with whom he was brought in contact, their characters and idiosyncrasies, which have evidently been the subject of thoughtful study on his part. His chapter on native caravan life, though not altogether pleasant reading, supplies, at any rate, an unusually vivid picture; while his accounts of the natives and political organization of Ruanda—of all African states the one which has longest lain off the beaten track, even of native lines of communication; of the Batwa dwarfs of the region of the great volcanoes; and of other tribes, such as the Bakiga, whose inveterate thieving habits gave him so much trouble, are of still higher interest in proportion to the little that has hitherto been written about them.

It should be mentioned that, while the freshness of the narrative is maintained by a liberal use of the diary form, the objections often attaching to this method are lessened by the very careful elaboration to which the original journals were subjected from time to time during the course of the journey, the results of more mature reflection or subsequent experience being in this way incorporated. Lastly, the avoidance of the use of the objectionable loaded paper, now so common, adds immensely to the attractiveness of the book, and in no way detracts from the clearness of the excellent illustrations.

WESTERN UGANDA.

'On the Borders of Pigmy Land.' By Ruth B. Fisher. London: Marshall Bros. [1905.] Pp. x. and 216. *Illustrations. Price 3s. 6d. net.*

This work is valuable as presenting the views and impressions of one who has not merely passed through the country at a rapid rate, but has resided in it for several years, maintaining a close and constant intercourse with the natives. The writer is the wife of the Rev. A. B. Fisher, who read a paper before the Society in 1904 (*Journal*, vol. 24, p. 249). There is a chapter on the pygmies, and another on the partial ascent of the Ruwenzori range.

ZANZIBAR.

'Zanzibar in Contemporary Times.' By R. N. Lync. London: Hurst & Blackett. 1905. Pp. xii. and 328. *Maps and Illustrations. Price 10s. 6d. net.*

This is the first attempt which has been made to write the history of Zanzibar, and especially of British relations with it, in modern times. The author, who belongs to the Government service, has made careful researches in the archives of Government departments at home, and by his intercourse with past and present residents, has been able to place on permanent record many interesting details of the history.

may, therefore, be worth while calling attention to what appears to be a fallacy in the estimate made by Sir W. Garstin (in his admirable and exhaustive report on the basin of the upper Nile) of the evaporation from the surface of the lake. Having estimated the amount of water entering the lake in one year (whether as rain or by rivers), and leaving it by the Ripon falls, he proceeds to obtain the "total cubic content of the water added to it in one year," adding this to the amount leaving the lake, and then deducting the sum from the amount received; the result being, in his view, the amount lost by evaporation. But in order to justify this proceeding, the amount taken as added to the lake should surely be the *net* gain during the year (supposing such to exist), and not the gross amount corresponding to the difference between the lowest and highest level, which is the quantity obtained by Sir W. Garstin on the basis of the mean annual range of level. His value for the amount lost by evaporation will thus be far too low, supposing the other estimates to be fairly correct.