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Review: Africa Minor

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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 33, No. 6 (Jun., 1909), p. 708

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1777562>

Accessed: 11-06-2016 17:20 UTC

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## AFRICA.

## AFRICA MINOR.

'L'Afrique du Nord. Tunisie—Algérie—Maroc.' Avec 27 gravures dans le texte et 3 cartes hors texte. Par Henri Lorin. Paris: Librairie Armand Colin. 1908. 3 fr.

This is a well-informed, clearly written manual upon Africa Minor, a more accurate designation of the region of which he treats than that chosen by M. Lorin. The essential physical unity of the three countries is one of the commonplaces of the geographer. This is shown by the author (who is well acquainted with Algeria and Tunisia) in his opening chapter. Then follows a chapter of twenty-eight pages—a good piece of work—in which the whole history of the land is summarized, while the preliminary survey is closed by an account of the different races of Africa Minor. The greater part of the book is occupied with regional studies (excellent pen-pictures readily bringing to mind the aspect of the district described), and with accounts of the economic resources of the land. The closing chapters deal with political and racial questions. M. Lorin discusses a subject which has much troubled the French colonial party. Though France be mistress of Algeria and Tunisia, in addition to her "reversionary rights" in Morocco, the majority of their European inhabitants are Spaniards and Italians. The country is not for the Frenchman of pure lineage. But the three races mix freely, and a new type, called by M. Lorin the Neo-Français, is being somewhat rapidly evolved. "Dans l'amalgame qui se fait, le sang français représente le ferment intellectuel, le bouquet; le sang des races latines de la Méditerranée apporte au type final une physiologie mieux assouplie aux climats méridionaux, plus de résistance avec moins de finesse." At the other end of the continent, in the evolution of the Afrikander, we are witnessing a similar phenomenon, though one which is much slower in development. To each of his sections the author appends a brief *résumé* of its contents; he gives also useful bibliographical notes (French works only being cited). 'L'Afrique du Nord' altogether forms an admirable introduction to a subject of ever-present interest. F. R. C.

## POLAR REGIONS.

## A ROYAL ADVENTURER IN THE KARA SEA.

'La Revanche de la Banquise. Un été de dérive dans la mer de Kara.' By Monseigneur le Duc D'Orléans. Paris: Plon Nourrit et Cie. 1909. Price 30 fr.; bound, 45 fr.

This sumptuous volume, with its beautiful illustrations, is equal in artistic and literary merit to the previous one in which the royal author described his successful voyage of 1905 from Spitsbergen to the west coast of Greenland, under the title, 'A travers la Banquise du Spitzberg au Cap Phillipe.' The Duc d'Orléans had not the privilege, in his cruise of 1907 to the Barents and Kara seas, to visit hitherto unknown shores, nor to raise the flag of France on soil previously unvisited by civilized man. The unbounded good fortune which favoured the royal explorer in his previous voyage deserted him in 1907, and a long and weary drift in the pack-ice of the Kara sea is the main feature of the narrative. To felicitously detail the record of a wait of many days in an ice-bound ship, dependent for progression on the winds and currents of the Kara sea, would tax the powers of most writers; but so delightfully facile is the pen of the Duc d'Orléans, so vivid are his descriptions, in which gravity, gaiety, sentiment, and sound sense are so pleasantly intermingled, that there is not a dull passage in the entire letterpress. The *Belgica*, with the Duc d'Orléans and his party, left Vardö on the evening of July 8. The ice conditions in Barents sea were most favourable; the coast of Novaya Zemlya, in the vicinity of Cape Britwin, was sighted on the 12th, and the 13th saw the vessel inside of the