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height of their prosperity, and those were the days when Dalmatia also was most prosperous. But the beginnings of modern progress undoubtedly date from the Napoleonic period, though, as we have seen, Dalmatia owes her culture to Italy. However, we do not gather that Prof. Dainelli expects to see Dalmatia assigned to Italy at the Peace Conference. L. C. M.

The Fisheries of the North Sea.— Neal Green. London: Methuen & Co. 1918. 4s. 6d. net.

This little book has been written in order that the public might be better informed than at present of the possibilities and opportunities for future development of our magnificent heritage of the sea. The writer makes a strong protest against State control of Fisheries, but a very wide acquaintance with the literature on the subject is hardly suggested by the limited bibliography appended. The history of fishing forms an interesting chapter, commencing with primitive man, and proceeding onwards to historic times, the prosperity of the Hanseatic League, the supremacy of the Dutch founded upon the herring fisheries, the encouragement given by Elizabeth, and the various alterations of the methods of fishing up to the coming of the steam trawler, which has done so much to revolutionize fishing. A physiographical description of the ocean bed is given, merging into the like of the metabolism of the sea, and here the author is hardly on safe ground, for he draws a somewhat fantastic picture of the abysmal fauna. Special chapters give useful information on the fisheries of Scandinavia, Holland, Germany, France, Russia, and America, and the book ends with a letter signed by Professors Gardiner and Nuttall of Cambridge, which appeared in the *Times* a short time ago, anent the brine-freezing process as applicable to fish.

The fisheries of this country are undoubtedly a most valuable asset, not only as a means of food supply but as a nursery for our Navy; and it is to be hoped the book will arouse greater public interest in the subject than at present exists. There is a good map showing the fishing-grounds, but no index. A. W.

ASIA

Legends of Babylon and Egypt in Relation to Hebrew Tradition.— L. W. King. British Academy Lectures. Oxford University Press. 1918. 3s. net.

The geographical distribution of myths and legends is an interesting study for the light it may throw on the origin of religious beliefs and on the relations of peoples in early times. Probably no legend has more engaged the attention of mankind than that of a universal flood. Every instructed child in Christendom is early inoculated with it, and confirmed in his belief by one of his favourite toys, Noah's ark. There are three well-known versions of the legend, the Babylonish, the Hebrew, and the Greek. Did these several versions of the story originate independently in different parts of the world, or are they derived from a common source? The remarkable similarity of the Babylonish and Hebrew stories has not been in doubt since George Smith, nearly half a century ago, discovered at Nineveh amongst the relics of King Ashurbanipal's library the tablet on which the former was written. And it has not unnaturally been supposed that from it the Hebrew was derived.

In 1912 an extremely interesting and important discovery was made at Nippur by the archæological expedition sent out from the University of Pennsylvania. This consists of the lower part of a tablet, dating from the time of Hammurabi, King of Babylon, towards the close of the third millennium