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the Lhasa Treaty in 1904, the two together adding very materially and usefully to our knowledge of the western portion of the great Tibetan plateau, and especially of its cartography. Captain Rawling is one of that type of British officers who enjoy nothing so much as putting themselves into the most uncomfortable positions, and pushing into the most inhospitable regions on the Earth. And where else could a more desolate and uninviting region than the great Tibetan plateau be found? Captain Rawling's book speaks eloquently of its inhospitality; of the dreary desert plains and barren hillsides; of the scarcity of fodder, which caused the death of eighteen out of twenty-four ponies in a few days; of the scarcity of water, which necessitated the digging of temporary wells; of the raging winds and piercing cold—such cold that even in August there were 18° of frost; and, lastly, of the churlishness of the Tibetan authorities, who drove away the travellers from all inhabited places, and kept them in the most dreary districts of the country.

And yet Western Tibet evidently has some luring charms in it; the vast expanses of unbroken plain, the mighty snowy ranges, the blue sky,—all these attract the traveller. "Tibet," says Captain Rawling, "has an irresistible fascination for the man who has once travelled in the country, and though one is always delighted to leave the discomforts and hardships inseparable from exploration, and to revel in the delight of civilization again, yet before many months have passed the longing to see it once more returns with redoubled force."

On his first journey Captain Rawling was accompanied by Captain Hargreaves, and he had with him the sub-surveyor of the Survey of India, and was furnished with a theodolite and plane-table. He was therefore able to map some 35,000 square miles in the north-western corner of Tibet, between Rudok and the Kuen-lun mountains, and connect with the surveys of Deasy, Sven Hedin, Bower, and Wellby.

In his second journey he was accompanied by Major Ryder, R.E., Captain Wood, R.E., and Lieut. Bailey, and the two survey officers made a full and accurate survey of the whole route from Gyantse and Shigatse, up the Bramaputra to its source, thence to the Mansarowar lake and Gartok, and back to Simla by the Shipki pass.

Such expeditions cannot be carried out unless the leaders possess tact in dealing with the strangers they find themselves amongst, and a capacity for making those Asiatics whom they employ work loyally with them. The account of Captain Rawling's dealing with the Tibetans when they opposed him shows that he possessed the first of these requisites; and it is satisfactory to read the handsome acknowledgment he makes of the services rendered by his followers, and of their doggedness in overcoming apparently insuperable obstacles.

It is also a matter of congratulation for us that the Tibetan authorities have now completely reversed the obstructive attitude they assumed to Captain Rawling in 1903. In 1904 he was assisted everywhere by Tibetan officials, and in 1905 a British Deputy Commissioner from the United Provinces was cordially received by Tibetans at Gartok.

F. E. Y.

AFRICA.

ABYSSINIA.

'The Source of the Blue Nile.' By Arthur J. Hayes, L.S.A., London Medical Officer, Quarantine Office, Suez. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1905. *Price*, 10s. 6d. net.

This book gives a pleasant and instructive account of a medical officer's experience on an expedition to the source of the Blue Nile and Lake Tsana, in connection with the great scheme for the Nile dam, the principal objects being a survey and the setting up of marks, whereby the rise of the Blue Nile could be annually

gauged. Starting from Khartum, Dr. Hayes and two companions, with the usual complement of natives and transport, proceeded by Gedaref and Gallabat to the shores of Lake Tsana (round which they travelled), returning to Berber by Gallabat and along the river Atbara.

The author describes, in a free and easy style, the social customs and religions of Abyssinia, besides sketching its geography in a very complete and up-to-date manner; while the somewhat prosaic details of travel are enlivened by some humorous descriptions of the interviews with the various chiefs of the districts passed through. As a guide to sportsmen the book would prove invaluable, and some very useful information is given to those interested in transport. Some idea of the lonely life led by the Government officials stationed at distant outposts may be gathered from an instance given by Dr. Hayes. At Gedaref the party ate their Christmas dinner with Mr. Fleming, who said, "You are the last white men I shall see until June next year."

In the preface the author looks on his book as likely to be useful in the event of a political crisis, but this subject is not treated very liberally. Throughout the book mention is made of the cotton-growing capabilities of the country, and a special reference is made to it in the preface. Two clearly drawn maps at the end of the book show the route taken by the expedition, though, being borrowed (with permission) from Sir W. Garstin's report, they do not correctly show the recently arranged frontier. The numerous illustrations give a good idea of the points of interest in the country, while a somewhat lengthy description of the religions and customs of Abyssinia is given at the close. Many humorous references are made to the various cases which came before Dr. Hayes for treatment, and there can be no doubt that diseases of the eyes and leprosy are the scourges of the Sudan. Dr. Poulton has added an appendix dealing with the entomology of Abyssinia, which should prove very useful to students of that most interesting science, and quotations are made from Mr. Mansfield Parkyns, Sir Samuel Baker, Dr. Stecker, and others.

It is to be regretted that the information regarding the actual work of the surveying party is so brief, as the lack of it lessens the permanent value of the book as a work of reference.

A. C. I.

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL GEOGRAPHY.

PEAT.

'Die Moore der Schweiz mit Berücksichtigung der gesamten Moorfrage.' Von Prof. Dr. J. Früh u. Prof. Dr. Schröter. Beiträge zur Geologie der Schweiz. Geotechnische Serie III., pp. xviii. + 750. *Map, 4 Plates, and Illustrations.*

The Swiss Geological Commission has accustomed us to the production of important memoirs, but probably none has equalled this volume of 768 closely printed quarto pages, in the exhaustiveness with which it treats its subject. Not even in America has a work appeared surpassing this production of the Zurich professors of geography and botany in the completeness with which a subject is treated, not only from the alpha to the omega of its own alphabet, but through a large part of the corresponding alphabets of allied subjects, and it is probable that, without the assistance of the Schnyder van Wartensee foundation, even the Geological Commission of Switzerland would have been unable to publish this work, with which the only fault to be found is that out of the elaboration of detail it is difficult to detach the general principles. This difficulty is lessened by the arrangement of the work in a series of chapters, each dealing with a special branch of the subject, and each written by the author most competent to deal with it.