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## THE PHILIPPINES.

'The Philippine Islands.' By Fred W. Atkinson, First General Superintendent of Education in the Philippine Islands. 8vo. Pp. 426, 2 *Maps and numerous Illustrations*. Boston, New York, Chicago, and London: Ginn & Co., Ltd. *Price 7s. 6d.*

Mr. Atkinson's book has no sub-title, and until the volume is in the reader's hands he is left in uncertainty as to its scope and the point of view the author will take up, although the fact that the latter holds the post of Superintendent of Education in the archipelago no doubt affords something in the way of clue. We have had many books on the Philippines since the American occupation. Mr. Foreman wrote from a prolonged acquaintance with the islands, and though his book left much to be desired in the way of arrangement, it was, and will always remain, a most valuable storehouse of facts for the historian. Mr. D. C. Worcester depicted the island excellently from the standpoint of the naturalist and explorer, and Señor Ramon Lala—a Filipino who had an English training and was an ardent supporter of the American rule—wrote a book which is of especial value as showing us the country and the people as seen through native eyes. Another and very different phase—the everyday life of commercial Manila—is very well realized in the unpretentious but clever little volume which Mr. Joseph Earle Stevens published under the title of 'Yesterdays in the Philippines,' and Colonel G. J. Younghusband has shown us the country as it appeared to a military critic shortly after the annexation. All these have a justification for their existence, and with Jagor, Montano, Burbidge, and others of the pre-American days, combine to furnish a tolerably full account of the archipelago. Mr. Atkinson, nevertheless, opines in his preface that "previous writers have not presented their material in such a way as to attract the ordinary reader, and enable him to get an accurate and substantial knowledge of the situation," and on this plea, combined with his experience as Superintendent of Education, offers us the present volume.

It would have been better if Mr. Atkinson had given us more first-hand material and less compilation. As it is, we get the usual chapters upon history, geography, etc., which do not add in any way to the information given in the leading geographical manuals. Climate receives a chapter to itself, and is followed by another on public health, a rather misleading title, for but few statistics are vouchsafed, and their place is taken by hints for travellers and residents on the preservation of health. These are for the most part helpful and correct, with the single exception of the author's recommendation of linen underclothing, in which we doubt if he could get any doctor with any knowledge of the tropics to join. Commercial geography is also somewhat of a misnomer for the next chapter, which speaks only in very general terms of the products of the archipelago, and makes the curious statement that "there is a conspicuous absence of palatable fruits"! And this in a land which can boast the finest mango in the world, and a pamplemousse or shaddock which is second only to that of Labuan! Writing on the native, Mr. Atkinson is more at home, but does he mean his statement that the Moros take scalps to be taken seriously? It is satisfactory to learn that the Negritos are not decreasing, and that the Bureau of Ethnology place their numbers at as many as 30,000; but it cannot be said, as Mr. Atkinson avers, that "their identity (*sic*) with the Sakais of the Malay peninsula and the Mincopies of the Andaman islands is almost certain."

The section dealing with the educational methods adopted by the Americans is interesting, and here the author is on firm ground. It is, as he says, a huge task to train six millions of tropical, indolent people for self-government; but if not spoilt by too much hurry, the outlook is not unpromising. A great difficulty was the

presence of the friars, but this is now practically solved by the American Government having purchased the real estate belonging to the different orders, while a Roman Catholic archbishop and three bishops have been sent over from America to take in hand the ecclesiastical administration of that Church. The system of teaching adopted is certainly not lacking in boldness. Starting on the basis that there is no universal tongue in the Philippines, but, on the other hand, a vast number of different languages and dialects; that though Spanish is widely known, it is inadvisable to make it the language of the country; and, lastly, that the aim in view is to weld together and fuse as much as possible all these differing tribes and peoples, it was determined that English should be the language of the country, and that all teaching should be carried on in it. The present organization comprises, in addition to the superintendents, some 750 American and 2500 native teachers, who look after about a quarter of a million children in more than 2000 schools. There are also provincial secondary schools with industrial departments, agricultural schools, and a nautical school which trains for the mercantile marine.

If, as seems to be the case, the American "man in the street" is only now beginning to realize that the new possessions of the United States in the East are not a coherent whole, and seeks to know something more of the present condition of things, he will find a tolerably clear, if not very exhaustive account of the archipelago in Mr. Atkinson's book, aided by many useful illustrations which are evidently specially taken or chosen with the idea of elucidating the text. It is, however, in the last two or three chapters only that the careful student of the Philippines and the Filipinos is likely to find much that is new. Events march quickly nowadays, and it is hard to realize the changes that have already taken place since the American annexation. But this volume foreshadows even greater. Not before we read it did we grasp the fact that before many years are over some seven or eight million more people will have been added to the English-speaking races. Mr. Atkinson goes a point further and says, "we have scratched the Malay, and at some future date need not be surprised to find an American, at least in spirit and initiative;" but this is a phase of development which for the present we may take leave to doubt.

F. H. H. G.

#### EASTERN ASIA.

'My Travels in China, Japan, and Java, 1903.' By H. H. Raja-i-Rajgan Jagatjit Sing, of Kapurthala. London: Hutchinson & Co. 1905.

An interesting and well-written account of an Indian prince's tour in Eastern Asia, the incidents of which are described in thoroughly good English. In China, the prince was more than disappointed with what he saw of the Chinese. He wonders at the tenacity with which they cling to their ancient habits and customs, and considers them selfish, indolent, and backward. The number of foreign troops of all nationalities stationed in China caused the prince some astonishment, and while remarking on the various barracks he visited, he considers that the Italians have paid a high compliment to their compatriot in installing a complete system of wireless telegraphy in their barracks. The majesty of the ancient city of Peking claimed a large share of the prince's attention, and, even before the outbreak of the recent war, he was much impressed with the strategic value of the trans-Siberian railway.

As a contrast to the "indolent" Chinese, the prince describes the Japanese, whose general progress and activity pleased him greatly. One of the most notable features about the Japanese was their studied politeness to foreigners. During his stay in Japan, the author attended the empress's annual chrysanthemum party, the management of which he places on a level with that of a levée at Buckingham

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