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bristles with difficult problems. Mr. Thomas is a painstaking recorder and accurate observer, and his suggested interpretations of customs are shrewd instances of insight into the African habit of thought. Palaver is the bane of the anthropologist in the African field. The savage is prone to regard speech as an amusement and seldom recognizes the value of linking it with real thought. Recognizing this difficulty, we are amazed at the success with which Mr. Thomas has compiled a well-supported treatise on the law of the bush in the primary rights of person and the tangle of rights of property. The wife and, equally, the slave seem to exist only as in possession; title to them may pass in one fashion or another, but they never cease to be property.

The last volume provides a large addition to the vocabulary already published. The Ibo of Nigeria is spoken in a sort of recitative, but with the important distinction that the play of the tones is not merely a matter of ornament but it is essentially a determinant of the signification of the word; therefore the tone must be indicated for each word when it is recorded. The value of these Ibo tones has been carefully studied from the phonogram and expressed as nearly as possible upon our musical scale, thus providing the means whereby facility may be acquired in their use.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**The Sultanate of Bornu.** Translated from the German of Dr. A. Schultze.

With additions and appendices by P. Askell Benton. 401 pp. Map, index. Oxford University Press, New York, 1913. 7 x 5.

A book that should be in every collection of African literature, because it not only gives the quintessence of what Barth and Nachtigal wrote on Bornu but also the important facts revealed in the literature of the past twenty years. Dr. Schultze's book, of which this is a translation "with additions," is the first monograph that has been written on this very interesting and economically important part of Africa. Schultze, who was a member of the Anglo-German Yola-Chad Boundary Commission, covered in his book the essentials of the literature already known, together with his own observations, dealing generally with all lines of inquiry and correcting statements that he could prove to be erroneous. It is a model German monograph, most painstaking in the writing and ably covering the ground.

Mr. Benton, who is a British official in the Bornu Province of Nigeria, has made a faithful translation of the original and has added to it many footnotes of his own, enclosed in brackets, which enrich the original work. The book is all the more timely because, unfortunately, Nachtigal's great work has never been translated into English.

## ASIA

**Annals and Memoirs of the Court of Peking.** (From the 16th to the 20th Century.) By E. Backhouse and J. O. P. Bland. 531 pp. Ills., index. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1914. \$4.50. 10 x 6½.

The authors have already shown in their great work upon the Empress Dowager a remarkably sympathetic appreciation of the Chinese habit of thought. They present a clear picture of the reforming power of the victorious general when attacking the palace corruption of the Mings. They record the virtuous days of the Manchu dynasty when in its youthful strength, and trace the inevitable progress of deterioration when the palace servants and the palace women led the emperors into ease and then into vice. They point out the sturdy morality of the Chinese people and make it clear that a dynasty must totter when its conduct transgresses the rules of this morality which has existed as a rule of conduct for millenniums in this ancient civilization. This is the central theme of this volume of the history of the last four centuries, a theme most excellently elaborated. They are cautious in their forecast of the future of China under its present non-dynastic rule. China itself is cautious and is willing to await the course of events. As regards their attitude toward President Yuan Shih-k'ai, it may be significant that they note with particular force the fact that both the Manchu dynasty, on whose ruins he sits in rule,

and the Ming dynasty, which the Manchus overthrew when the time was ripe, began with a victorious commander ruling in accordance with the wisdom of the Chinese sages.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**A Winter in India.** Light Impressions of Its Cities, Peoples, and Customs. By Archibald B. Spens. xiii and 302 pp. Map, ill., index. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1914. \$1.75. 8 x 5½.

This is an entertaining record of a winter's tour in India. From place to place the reader follows the author with unflagging interest and enthusiasm. With the government officials he inspects the Umballa jail, traverses the barren desolation of the Khyber Pass, learns at Amritsar the story of the Gurus and the foundation of Sikhism, sees the holy city of Benares at prayer and is repelled by the wretched, soulless habitués of a Bombay opium den. These are but a few of the places visited, and each is charmingly and vividly portrayed. The author's description of the domes and pinnacles of the immortal Taj Mahal at Agra and his story of the erection of this world-famous mausoleum are excellent. Historic Cawnpore, Lucknow, and Delhi—scenes of the three great sieges of the Sepoy Mutiny—are treated at length. The volume, illustrated throughout with superior photographs, closes with a translation of Count Charles de Lesseps's paper on the Suez Canal. "Merely a little book of impressions," the author calls it, but impressions which convey, in no small degree, much of the wondrous color, the incongruity, and the weird fascination of India.

E. M. GEORGE.

**Beyond the Pir Panjal.** Life and missionary enterprise in Kashmir. By Ernest F. Neve. viii and 178 pp. Ills. Church Missionary Society, London, 1914. 2s. 6d. 9 x 6.

The Pir Panjal range forms the highest line of the mountain barrier which divides Kashmir from the plains of Northern India. Beyond the Pir Panjal, in Kashmir, the author lived and worked for more than twenty-five years. Dr. Neve describes the country and its people, their life, customs, industries and religions. He tells of the noble work that is being carried on by Christian missionaries. The Christian medical work is doing great good. In the Mission Hospital in Kashmir last year, he writes, there were "23,642 new out-patients, and 1,979 in-patients in the hospital." The people represented every class of society. They came from the villages scattered throughout Kashmir, the plains of India, and some few from Tibet, Afghanistan, and even Yarkand and Khotan. More medical missionaries and missions are needed. The author says: "If what I have written should inspire any qualified men or women, doctors or nurses, to take up such work as their career, the time spent in writing these pages will have been indeed worth while." The book is well illustrated with photographs.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

**Life in an Indian Outpost.** By Major Gordon Casserly. xvi and 320 pp. Ills. 320 pp. T. Werner Laurie, Ltd., London, 1913 (?) 12s. 6d. 8½ x 5½.

The author writes of the daily life in a far British outpost in India. One cannot but feel the appeal in the descriptions of a place so far removed from the most limited civilization as is Buxa at the foot of the Himalayas. The narrative relates to a country of jungle-covered hills and dense forests, where wild game abounds, to forest fires and the monsoons, to glowing Indian colors, natural and artificial, the latter relating to the Indian Durbar, and sumptuous surroundings in the palaces of the native princes. Chapters 6 and 7 give interesting accounts of the rogue elephant in the jungle and its "hunting down." Major Casserly has written many curious personal incidents, and no page of his book is lacking in interest.

ALICE CHURCH BARTLETT.

**L'Ile de Chypre.** Séjour de 3 ans au pays de Paphie-Vénus. Par René Delaporte. 359 pp. Joseph Barratier, Grenoble, 1913. Fr. 4. 9 x 6.

A French description of the third largest island in the Mediterranean, based upon a three years' residence there by a former director of *L'Alliance Française*