

the outer man, the vigour and sportsmanship and grace and sheer physical beauty, there lay as the inward source of all these things a beautiful nature. One of his friends has described his personality as "radiant," and perhaps no word is better suited to convey the secret of his shining manliness. He touched nothing that he did not strike fire from, and this was because something clean and strong, like fire, burned within him.

The story of his life is written with a simple directness that enables the unfolding of his character to be observed, as it were, objectively and in the light of the accessory conditions. Enough is said to reveal a happy and populous home as the most fundamental of such formative influences. Next we see him as one of that band of "dragons" who grow up at Oxford under the genial and wisely tolerant rule of Dr. C. C. Lynam, and note that his talent for games had already been discerned by sympathetic experts. Then he goes to Rugby. If life in the English public school needs sometimes to be painted in darker colours, it is at least certain that, wherever Ronald Poulton was, vice could not show its face. He found at Rugby what the normal healthy-minded boy may surely expect to find in any of our great schools—the opportunity for an education in which the physical, mental, and moral sides of young humanity are cultivated together. The threefold result is seen in his increasing skill as an athlete; in the winning of a science scholarship at Balliol; and in a capacity for helping others that at the university, in his various boy-clubs, in business at the factory, and finally in the Army, was destined to render him, unassuming as he was, a supreme leader of men. His subsequent career, from his Balliol days onwards, shows a steady maturing of many-sided powers of social usefulness that the word "leadership" serves best of all to sum up; and, indeed, the interest that one is led to take in this aspect of his development quite overshadows the stirring tale of his football, sketched as it is by Mr. A. C. M. Croome with many fine touches. One wonders how much he might have done for England had he been spared to give the full support not merely of his wealth, which was to be great, but of his lucid intellect and nobility of soul, to the public cause which he had most at heart—the provision of a liberal education for the masses.

Of a loss that touches so many it is hard to speak fittingly, but perhaps the following passage, taken from a story by Mr. G. F. Bradby, will seem not wholly beside the point: "We say to each other, and do, no doubt, in part believe, that it is not length of days, but service, that gives

to life its value, and that to die cheerfully in a great cause is perhaps the noblest use to which any man can put the life that has been given him. And all the time we are conscious of the great blank that has fallen on our own."

R. R. MARETT.

Our Bookshelf.

An Ethno-geographical Analysis of the Material Culture of Two Indian Tribes in the Gran Chaco. By Erland Nordenskiöld. Pp. xi+295. *The Changes in the Material Culture of Two Indian Tribes under the Influence of New Surroundings.* By Erland Nordenskiöld. Pp. xvi+245. (Comparative Ethnographical Studies, Nos. 1 and 2.) (London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, n.d.) Price 20s. net two vols.

CONSUL-GENERAL AXEL JOHNSON, of Stockholm, managing director of the Johnson Line to South America, supports in every way Swedish exploration of that continent, recognising the advantages which are sure to result from purposely conducted commercial and scientific interchange between the peoples of the respective countries. In other words, systematically gained knowledge will benefit trade. Mr. Erland Nordenskiöld is by no means the first Swedish pioneer. The first volume comprises a sifting of the present economic conditions of two still primitive tribes, the Choroti and Ashluslay of the Gran Chaco. The second volume deals in a similar way with the Chiriguans of the great Guarani group, and with the Guaraniised Arawaks, both on the border between Bolivia and Argentina. Many other tribes had also to be considered as the many implements, customs, games, etc., have been traced, sometimes all over the continent, their distribution being well shown by sixty maps. The more sporadic a certain tool, the older it is, and its discontinuous occurrence is generally caused by whole tribes having died out.

The less civilised tribes copy from the richer and more advanced, not *vice versa*. The very common practice of the rape of women is one of the main influences upon the adaptation and spreading of implements and industries, since the women naturally cling to what they have been brought up with.

The chapters on the influence of the whites contain some remarkable conclusions. The positive, advantageous effect of the white culture is greater where the Indians live far away from the whites—for instance, domestic animals and things connected with them. Direct contact brings loss of independence, which ultimately spells irretrievable poverty. There is an apparently exhaustive and critically consulted bibliography. An index may be forthcoming in the contemplated third volume.