

The chapter on animal parasites is of interest, and will be eagerly perused by those for whom this book is written; so will the illustrations and descriptions of insect weapons and tools, although this chapter might with great ease have been made more popular by many added illustrations from familiar sources.

The book is well printed on good paper and admirably bound. It would make a useful and desirable present, and will, we believe, be read with pleasure by the general public, who will find that it opens a new world of facts and suggestions to them. D.

M. TSYBIKOFF'S JOURNEY TO LHASSA.

IN the latest number of the *Izvestia* of the Russian Geographical Society (1903, iii.) there is a very interesting paper, by M. G. Ts. Tsybikoff, on his journey to Central Tibet and his stay at the city of the Dalai-lama, Lhasa, the unattained goal of so many European travellers. M. Tsybikoff is a Russian Buryate by birth, and a Lamaite by religion, who studied at the Oriental faculty of a Russian university, and after having carefully prepared himself for this journey went to Tibet, as so many Buryate pilgrims do. He stayed on his way through Mongolia in two of the most renowned Mongolian monasteries, and on August 1, 1900, entered the holy precincts of Central Tibet without any difficulty. It was on the northern slope of the Bumza Pass, on the San-chu River. From this spot the caravan travelled south-westwards through the broad and open, extremely high and dry valleys of Central Tibet, where cereals are nevertheless grown by means of irrigation, and on August 16 they entered the holy city, after a three months' journey from the Gumbum Monastery, and a 370 miles' journey through Tibet proper.

At Lhasa M. Tsybikoff stayed more than twelve months, until September 23, 1901, and from that city he made an excursion so far as Tsetan, or Chetan, visiting, besides the three great monasteries situated round Lhasa—Braubun (8500 monks), Sera (5000 monks) and Galdan (2000 to 2500 monks)—also the monasteries of Dashi-lhunbo (170 miles from Lhasa, on the right bank of the Brahmaputra) and Sam-yai, on the left bank of the same river, about 67 miles south-east of Lhasa, one of the oldest in Tibet, as it was founded in the ninth century. He also visited the towns Shih-tse, Chan-tse, and Tsetan.

The descriptions which the Russian traveller gives of Lhasa and its sanctuaries, as well as of the monasteries already mentioned, the population, its composition and its ways of living, the Government and administration, and the climate of the country—meteorological observations were made thrice a day without interruption for 235 days—are extremely interesting. The estimates of population hitherto given have been very much exaggerated, and M. Tsybikoff takes the number as not exceeding two and a half millions, out of whom one million are living in the two provinces U and Tsan. Lhasa has no more than 10,000 inhabitants, two-thirds of whom are women, its population having been overestimated on account of the 15,000 to 16,000 monks staying in the

three above-named monasteries and the numbers of pilgrims.

During his stay at Lhasa M. Tsybikoff made an extremely valuable collection of 317 volumes (now in the hands of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences) of Tibetan books on philosophy, medicine, astronomy, history and geography, as also of prayers and incantations, written by the most renowned lamas for the last nine centuries.

The paper is illustrated by nine excellent photographs, representing views of Lhasa, the palace of the Dalai-lama, and the monasteries of Galdan and Dashi-lhunbo. The pictures are taken from the collection of M. Norzunoff, a Kalmyk pilgrim who also was at Lhasa in the same year, and brought back forty-five photographs. M. Tsybikoff's collection (twenty-one photos) reached the Russian Geographical Society after the views mentioned above had been printed.

Those who are interested in Tibet will be glad to know that, besides the diary of the Buryate Zayaeff,

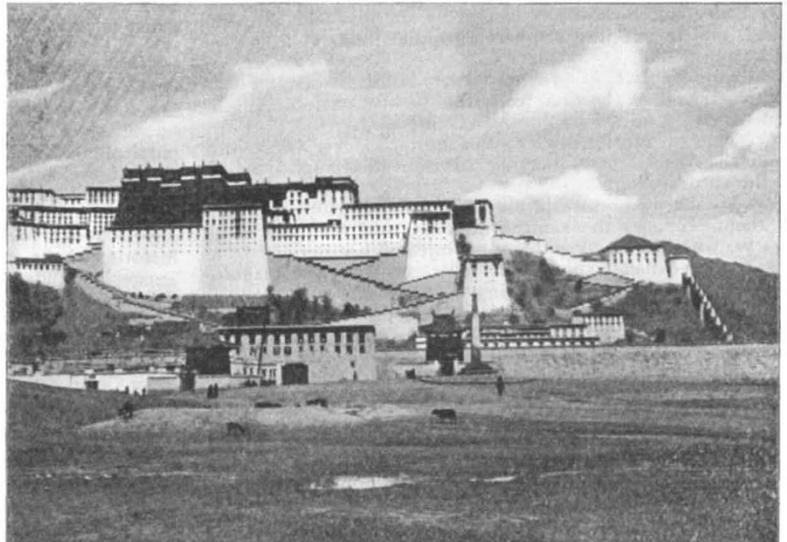


FIG. 1.—Potala, the palace of the Dalai-lama at Lhasa, seen from the south. (It is built on the cliff Mar-bo-ri, which rises above the plain of the Ui-chu River, about two-thirds of a mile from the city itself).

who visited Central Tibet in the eighteenth century, the diary of the Kalmyk Baza-bakshi Menkejeff was published in 1897, with a Russian translation by Prof. Peczdnéeff.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

AT the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on Monday, the officers and council for the year were elected, the report of the council was read, and the president delivered his address. In the following list of the elected council, the names of new members are printed in italics:—

President, Sir William Huggins, K.C.B.; Treasurer, Mr. A. B. Kempe; Secretaries: Prof. Joseph Larmor and Sir Archibald Geikie; Foreign Secretary, Mr. Francis Darwin. Other Members of the Council: *Mr. G. A. Boulenger, Prof. J. R. Bradford, Prof. H. L. Callendar, Mr. F. W. Dyson, Prof. H. B. Dixon, Sir Michael Foster, K.C.B., Prof. P. F. Frankland, Sir Robert Giffen, K.C.B., Prof. W. D. Halliburton, Dr. E. W. Hobson, Prof. J. W.*