

able reproductions, but we have nowadays become accustomed to good things of this kind. It is rarely, however, that we have seen such satisfactory reproductions of photographs taken directly from the fossils as we have in the two plates. Most of the good colotype reproductions of fossils that have recently appeared are from photographs of water-colour drawings, and some of them are certainly very effective; but there is the artist's equation to allow for. In the present case, no such allowance has to be made, and the figures of the lion's jaw as well as of the teeth of the fallow deer and elephant are admirable. These plates do credit to all concerned in their production.

#### FIJIAN FOLK-TALES.<sup>1</sup>

ETHNOLOGISTS have all along suspected that Mr. Fison has plenty of unpublished information concerning Fiji. They are grateful to him for what he has already published in the *Journal of the*

can be claimed is that it is of the native pattern." The tales are interesting as stories, and have increased value when compared with other tales from Oceania, but their greatest importance rests in their value as evidence of the ideas and actions of the natives before the white man came. In the introduction Mr. Fison gives a long discussion concerning cannibalism, and he sums it up thus:—

"It is impossible to establish a certainty as to the origin of cannibalism, and the question resolves itself into a comparison of probabilities, the balance being in favour of the strongest motive. This is undoubtedly Hunger. It is stronger than Superstition; it is stronger than Revenge. Man is a carnivorous animal, whatever the vegetarians may say; and in a savage state of society, if he cannot get the food for which his stomach craves, he will '*kusima*' (crave, or hunger after flesh) until he eats his brother."

For, as Mr. Fison argues, the Fijians were formerly scantily supplied with animal food. The serious student is occasionally tantalised by hints of further



FIG. 1.—Bau, Fiji. From Fison's "Tales from Old Fiji."

Anthropological Institute, but they clamoured for more, and even now they will not remain satisfied with the handsome book that has just been issued by the De La More Press. This new book contains a dozen folk-tales capably told; "each contains a genuine legend as its skeleton, for the flesh with which that skeleton has been covered, the most that

information, and by allusions to possible discussions of social and other questions, all of which are passed by as not being suitable for a popular book; doubtless Mr. Fison was wise in restraining himself, but, for the sake of science, it is sincerely to be hoped that he will give all his information to the world in some form or another. In the meantime we thank Mr. Fison for this publication, which can be recommended to those who like interesting information about real savages told in a pleasing manner.

<sup>1</sup> "Tales from Old Fiji." By Lorimer Fison. Pp. xlv+175; illustrated. (London: A. N. Spon, Ltd., the De La More Press, 1904.) Price 7s. 6d. net.