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SHORT REVIEWS

ANTHROPOLOGY

Akiga's Story

The Tiv Tribe as seen by one of its Members. Translated and annotated by Dr. Rupert East. (Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures.) Pp. xv+436+24 plates. (London: Oxford University Press, 1939.) 21s. net.

IF support were needed for the policy of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures in encouraging the African to express himself in literary form, it might well be drawn from this volume. The author has been engaged for more than twenty years in collecting information relating to the traditional customs of his people, the Tiv, who, to the number of more than half a million, live on the banks of the Benué in northern Nigeria. Although it is true that his action long preceded any possibility of encouragement by the Institute, which came in only at the latest stage, the result of his labour, or at least that part of it which has now been published in translation, is remarkable for its power of logical thought, its arrangement, and its grasp of the essential. If the efforts of the Institute succeed in discovering writers of anything like the same calibre among the peoples of Africa, even if their numbers are relatively small, the policy is wise, and energies have not been expended in vain.

Akiga was the first of his people to attend a school, and although a Christian, and an active preacher of Christianity among his people, he records the traditional customs and beliefs of his people in pagan days with an objectivity and detachment which should find favour in the eyes of the anthropologist. Where his narrative falls short of the requirements of an ethnographical treatise, as it does at times, his translator, Dr. East, has done much to make good the deficiency by his supplementary and explanatory notes, in which he endeavours to supply the background necessary for understanding in a reader who knows neither the country nor the people. Author and commentator, between them, supply an instructive picture of a state of society which now to a great extent has passed away, largely owing to the

efforts of the administration to restrict the leaning of the Tiv towards a preference for variety in their forms of marriage, by admitting one form only as legal. From Akiga's story it will be learnt why the election of one particular form, though well-intentioned, was mistaken, and why the native holds the white man as responsible for the ruin of the country.

Europe and West Africa

Some Problems and Adjustments. By Dr. C. K. Meek, W. M. Macmillan and E. R. J. Hussey. (University of London: Heath Clark Lectures, 1939, delivered at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.) Pp. v+144. (London, New York and Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1940.) 10s. net.

IN this, the eighth of the series of Heath Clark Lectures of the University of London, "the educational, cultural and humanistic aspects of the History, Development and Progress of Preventive Medicine and Tropical Hygiene" have been construed in the broadest sense. They deal with the cultural changes and adjustments which are and have been taking place in West Africa as a result of the impact of European civilization. Dr. Meek opens the course with two lectures in which he draws upon his experience as an administrator, mainly acquired, as he points out, in Nigeria, to give in broad outline a summary of West African racial and cultural conditions and to indicate some of the principal social and economic factors affected by or affecting the course of contact development.

Prof. Macmillan, from his wide experience of African social and economic problems, provides an acute and penetrating analysis of a situation arising out of the development of the mining and cocoa industries and the difficulties which confront administration in the mixed communities resulting. Finally, Mr. Hussey considers the contribution of education to the solution of the problem of African development, construing his terms of reference in so wide a sense as to examine the position of 'indirect rule' as a factor in education. Those who are interested in the future of African peoples will find much