

of its scenery has led to its repeated exploration. The latest contribution to its literature is a volume by the Senior Commissioner of Tanganyika Territory, Mr. Dundas, who states in the preface that study of the district and its people was compelled by the spell of the mountain more than by his own interest in research. His first chapter summarises the history of the exploration of the mountain and its glaciers, and reports that their rapid diminution in size since they were first mapped by Hans Meyer in 1887 and 1889 still continues. There is little direct reference to the geological structure and none to the interesting rocks of which the mountain is composed. The author makes for Kilima Njaro the surprising claim that it is the highest point of the British Empire!

The bulk of the work consists of a valuable account of the Wachagga, who live on the lower slopes of the mountain. One of the legends of this tribe refers to fire on Kilima Njaro, which is a possible reminiscence of an eruption; but the reference is so indefinite that it may be only a coincidence, and affords no evidence of recent volcanic activity. Mr. Dundas records various legends similar to the Bible account of the Fall of Man, of the story of Cain, and of the Flood. He is satisfied that these stories have been long known to the tribe, as they were told him by the older members, and if they had been derived from the missionaries they would doubtless have included some from the New Testament. The claim by Merker that the Masai folklore includes some Biblical stories has been distrusted; but the author considers that it is supported by his discoveries of the Chagga legends.

The two chief drawbacks in the book are the absence of references and the brevity of the index; various authorities are quoted in the text, and the reader might lose time in endeavouring to trace them, especially when the names are misspelt, as in the case of Kersten (p. 20). The index is inadequate and the illustrations are sometimes far from the reference to them in the text. Thus opposite p. 192 is a figure of a "Nungu" or "Cursing Stone" dug up from ruins of a fort of the former Chagga Chief Horombo. It is referred to on p. 174, but is not mentioned in the index. The specimen is strikingly like those in South Africa which have been called Kaffir digging stones. The author considers that it was used as the medium for conveying a curse which might be removed by the submission of the offender. The Wachagga are accomplished smiths, and sell their iron work to the adjacent tribes; they buy the metal from the Pare, a tribe living south-south-east of Kilima Njaro. The volume includes a series of Chagga proverbs and an especially valuable chapter on Chagga law and political institutions. It forms a useful addition to East African ethnology.

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### Our Bookshelf.

*Nuovi orizzonti della psicologia sperimentale.* Per Agostino Gemelli. Seconda edizione riveduta ed aumentata. Pp. xiv+387. (Milano: Società Editrice "Vita e Pensiero," n.d.) 18 lire.

ENGLISH readers of these essays will be disappointed at the lack of reference to the work of the last ten years in psychology, and the book suffers from having neither bibliography nor index. But it is admirably suited by its lucid style and unbiassed criticism to the special purpose for which it was written, namely, as an introduction to experimental psychology for the use of Italian students.

In Italy, we are told, psychology has always been unduly influenced by philosophy. Whereas in Germany, England, and the United States, objective methods have been in the ascendant, experimental work has been discounted in Italy, where there are only two institutes (of Prof. Kiesow at Turin and Prof. Sante di Sanctis in Rome) for psychological research. "The field of psychology is invaded by philosophers, men of letters, dilettantes; people with the best intentions, who are always discussing general questions, but have not advanced the science of mind one jot, because they have never applied themselves to psychological research by strict methods and mental discipline."

The first essay discusses "Psychology as a Biological Science," and the inadequacy of biological explanations to solve psychological problems. Nevertheless, it is to Fechner, Wundt, and their successors that we owe the methods of experimental research by which mental activity can be described and studied. The second, on "Prejudices against 'Laboratory Psychology,'" insists that objective observation must be extended and reinforced by subjective, *i.e.* introspective, observation, as described in the third essay, on "New Methods of studying the Psychology of Will and Thought." Here the teaching of Ribot and Binet, and of Külpe at Würzburg, is contrasted with the earlier school of Leipzig.

"The Pathological Method in Psychology" is next considered, with a reminder that the relative and exceptional cannot be estimated as absolute and regular, and that psychology must not be degraded into psychiatry.

The concluding essay deals with "Psychology as the Science of Consciousness." Consciousness is a function of mental life (*vita psichica*) and not co-extensive with it—it is an autonomous synthetic activity. This theory is experimentally justified by recent researches into the origin of judgments and concepts along the lines of the school of Külpe. F. A. W.

*Les Moustiques de l'Afrique mineure, de l'Égypte et de la Syrie.* Par E. Séguy. (Encyclopédie entomologique, 1.) Pp. 257+29 planches. (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1924.) 50 francs.

ALTHOUGH the Culicidæ as a family are perhaps better known now than any other group of insects, our knowledge of all the details of their life-histories is still far from complete, especially as regards the species of certain regions. The author of the work under notice