THE AMERICAN MERCURY



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TRAVEL

SAHARA: THE GREAT DESERT.

Columbia University By E. F. Gautier. 6¼ x 9½; 264 pp. New York \$3.75

This book, by the distinguished French scholar Gautier, is generally recognized as the definitive work on the Sahara Desert. The present revised edition contains much new material, furnished by the author, which has never before been published, and also contains a foreword by Douglas Johnson, Professor of Physiography at Columbia University. The book describes the fauna and flora of the Sahara, the dangers of desert travel, climatic conditions at all seasons of the year, and the history of the great yellow wasteland as far back as human records carry. The Sahara, according to M. Gautier, will remain always the Sahara unless man can discover the secret of making rain. He believes, however, that there are forces now at work which will lend it additional prestige in the future. It lies between two regions having a need and attraction for each other civilized Western Europe and the unexplored agricultural wealth of the African tropics. Inasmuch as science is rapidly annihilating space, the Sahara may well be starting a new chapter in its age-old history of waste and abandonment. There are illustrations, maps, a glossary, and an index.

BURNERS OF MEN.

By Marcel Griaule. J. B. Lippincott Company • 5³/₄ x 8¹/₄; 308 pp. Philadelphia \$2.50 In this book, M. Griaule once again illustrates the old theory that a travel book is no better or worse than the style in which it is written. Told in the conventional journalistic manner, this story of a French scientist's experiences in Abyssinia would have been just another colorful narrative of adventure. Under the spell of M. Griaule's prose, however, it has assumed the form of a highly distinctive piece of literature ---good enough to receive the 1935 French Prix Gringoire. Its graphic realism, heightened at every turn by subtle understatement and objectivity, brings the reader face to face with the people and customs of a part of the world rarely (Continued in back advertising section, page xi)



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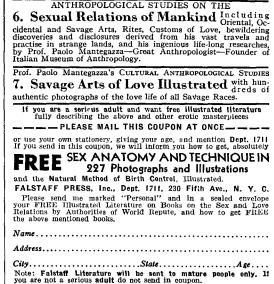
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