

- History of British India under the Company and the Crown.* By P. E. ROBERTS. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1923. Pp. v, 625.)
- The Political System of British India with special reference to the Recent Constitutional Changes.* By E. A. HORNE. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1922. Pp. 184.)
- India in Ferment.* By CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE. (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1923. Pp. xii, 252.)

Mr. Roberts has given us again the results he prepared for the *Historical Geography of the Dominions*, edited by Sir Charles Lucas. Parts I and II of Vol. VII are here republished in more compact form. The book is an excellent survey of the political and military history of India. Until the beginning of the nineteenth century, it is clearly based on a study of source materials. Then for nearly seventy-five years the author seems in the main to have summarized in rather arid fashion the ordinary political histories. For the history of the last fifty years there is evidence of recourse to Parliamentary Papers. Throughout, the social and economic life of India suffers from neglect. As a whole, therefore, the book is a conventional but convenient manual, useful for collateral reading, and generally presenting the official point of view.

Mr. Horne's book is a closely reasoned and compact statement of the problem of administration and constitutional government in British India. It is based on lectures given at Harvard in 1921 and with advantage could have been expanded by supplying explanations and by giving even the student more than a syllabus. Testing it again and again it is surprising to find how much is, however, referred to in the closely written pages of this small book. It is, therefore, an excellent analysis of the subject. Undoubtedly other lecturers will find it of rare service; but as a general book on a vitally important subject it lacks literary flesh and blood. The bones, however, are there.

Mr. Van Tyne's book pleasantly lacks the flippant tone that marked his lectures at Williamstown in 1922. The net result is an earnest, well-written survey of Indian social and political conditions as they appeared to the writer in 1922. He confesses to a prejudice in favor of "cleanliness, sanitation, hygiene, universal education and the necessity for political fitness." In short we see India as Mr. Van Tyne saw it, with all his ignorance of oriental history, habits, customs, and religion. He puts everything to the test of practical American observation. The result, therefore, is an overwhelming verdict in favor of the British *raj*.

Of these three books the most valuable to the student of political science is the *Political System of British India*. Mr. Horne, who is of the Indian Educational Service, has made a real contribution. Perhaps the most valuable chapter is that which deals with the "Gestation of Reforms, 1914-1919." Here are summarized the various proposals which so agitated Anglo-Indian and Indian opinion prior to the passage of the Government of India Act of 1919. Mr. Lionel Curtis contributed, in large part, a diversion of the issue which the author rightly describes "as little short of madness." The plan embodied in the Joint Address on theoretical grounds "is possibly the most satisfactory which could be devised," but "in the light of practical considerations" the plan supported by Mr. Curtis was disregarded. The authors of the final act "had no hesitation in rejecting the scheme." Aside from the "General Survey" the longest chapter is on the "Reformed Constitution." Nowhere else can the reader find in so brief a space an adequate description of the new framework of government in India. As a whole, therefore, the book is a valuable supplement to the standard books such as Ilbert's *Government of India* and Strachey's *India*. Unfortunately there is no index.

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*China: Yesterday and Today.* E. T. WILLIAMS. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co. 1923. Pp. xvii, 613.)

There are few Americans better qualified than Professor Williams for the task of interpreting China to America. Long residence in China, careful scholarship, familiarity with the language and literature of the country—essential as these all are—cannot prepare a writer for this undertaking unless he has absorbed much of the spirit of the East and can present, without prejudging, the divergences between East and West. In addition to residence, scholarship, and knowledge of Chinese language and literature, Professor Williams has this all-important qualification to a marked degree.

The work before us is encyclopedic rather than historical in method; ranging from the origins of the Chinese people to the Washington Conference, and from Taoism to modern trade. The historical chapters constitute only about one-third of the whole and are devoted to the forces and movements which have transformed, or are transforming the Old China into the New. The remaining chapters are given over