

Books of Special Interest

Seeing The World

- AROUND THE WORLD.** By ROBERT FROTHINGHAM. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1925. \$3.
- THE "TEDDY" EXPEDITION.** By KAI R. DAHL. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1925. \$3.
- A TROPICAL TRAMP WITH THE TOURISTS.** By HARRY L. FOSTER. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 1925. \$3.
- IN THE SUN WITH A PASSPORT.** By W. R. H. TROWBRIDGE. New York: George H. Doran Co. 1925. \$5.
- A RED CARPET ON THE SAHARA.** By EDNA BRUSH PERKINS. Boston: Marshall Jones Company. 1925. \$3.50.
- THE MAP THAT IS HALF UNROLLED.** By E. ALEXANDER POWELL. New York: The Century Co. 1925. \$3.50.
- FROM RED SEA TO BLUE NILE.** By ROSITA FORBES. New York: The Macaulay Co. 1925. \$3.50.
- THROUGH KHIVA TO GOLDEN SAMARKAND.** By ELLA R. CHRISTIE. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1925. \$5.
- TEMPLE BELLS AND SILVER SAILS.** By ELIZABETH CRUMP ENDERS. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1925. \$3.
- YES, LADY SAHEB.** By GRACE THOMPSON SETON. New York: Harper & Bros. 1925. \$4.

Reviewed by DALE WARREN

RED JACKETS, blue jackets, purple jackets; orange and green jackets; yellow jackets; jackets with camels and Chinese temples; jackets with steamships and maps and African bushmen emerging from banana trees—the reviewer is fairly dazzled by the brilliant array before him! From Greenland's icy mountains we go in stolid comfort to India's coral strand, and conclude that it is a wise traveller who picks his guide carefully, even for a vicarious voyage.

Robert Frothingham gives us a bird's-eye picture of the world, and with Kai R. Dahl, the Danish adventurer, we

drift nearly eight hundred miles on an ice floe down the Arctic Ocean. That delightful vagabond, Harry Foster, arrayed at last in silk shirt and flannels, rescued us and we have a taste of his good company on a *de luxe* cruise to South America. W. R. H. Trowbridge takes us along the African shore of the Mediterranean and with Edna Perkins we explore the solitary stretches of the Sahara. Colonel Powell lures us further south into the Belgian Congo and, continuing eastward, we ride on mule-back through Abyssinia with no less a person than Rosita Forbes. All the perfumes of Arabia do not deter us and we safely reach the heart of Turkistan with that fearless Englishwoman, Ella R. Christie. Elizabeth Crump Enders is in China and we cross the frontier to meet her in Shanghai. Then India, and we also respond in the affirmative when Grace Thompson Seton asks us to step into the jungle.

Considering the books objectively, we are somewhat disappointed in the first volume. It may be that Mr. Frothingham has too much ground to cover; it may be that he is over-sentimental and lets his training as an anthologist blur his travel vision. At any rate he does not make us feel that "somewhere over the rim of the world lies romance." We know that, travelling with him, we will see what he sees and no more, for he is the solid American citizen who has set out in cold blood to "go 'round the world." Yet he is a genial philosopher, and his compact guide-book will not be out of place in the luggage of others who do likewise.

There is real adventure in "The 'Teddy' Expedition"—icebergs, storms, shipwreck, half rations, "ship in sight," and all the rest. The schooner, "Teddy," sent to Greenland by the Danish East Greenland Company on an expedition to visit the fur depot at Denmark Harbor, was equipped inadequately to battle with the waters of the frozen north, the result being the loss of the ship in the Polar Sea and the transfer of crew and provisions to a float-

ing mass of ice. The author accompanied the expedition as press correspondent.

Let Harry Foster describe his own sensations as the S.S. "Touromania" warped its way out of dock: "I was sailing—sailing, sailing, over the bounding main, a full-fledged tourist guide looking forward to sixty-five days of sheer, undiluted, unadulterated bliss, following in the footsteps of Columbus, Cortez, Pizarro, Balboa, and Magellan, every day an adventure, without trouble, worry, inconvenience, annoyance, or discomfort!" The "tropical tramp" had given up tramping for once and decided to see the world as others see it. We judge he succeeded, and the result fully justifies the means for his new book is as keen a satire on the American tourist as we have seen.

The two books on Northern Africa, although alike in conception and both written by women tourists, are dissimilar in many respects. One is longwinded where the other is brief; one is filled with classical allusions where the other is detached. One author talks at length with the most interesting of her fellow-travellers, while the other chats informally with her Bedouin guide. Have you guessed? W. R. H. Trowbridge is an Englishwoman, and Edna Brush Perkins is an American. Both books are excellent. We enjoyed Mrs. Trowbridge's mellow conversational pages no less than Mrs. Perkins's terse, epigrammatic observations, expressed with an unusual and refreshing economy of words. The next time we see a camel we shall recall the latter's "I wondered how God had thought of such a beast."

Those who have read Colonel Powell's "Beyond the Utmost Purple Rim" will welcome "The Map That Is Half Unrolled," the second of his contemplated trilogy of travel books on Africa. This is not a book written for the tourist, but an account of observations accumulated over a considerable period of time. For that reason it makes particularly good reading. Colonel Powell knows his Africa well and has just enough sociological interest in his make-up to give character and balance to his writing. His book is carefully planned, and the disinterested reader who affects a contempt for the Dark Continent will be carried in spite

of himself from the first page to the last. One cannot say as much for Rosita Forbes's "From Red Sea to Blue Nile." The author explains: "This is not a book on Abyssinia. It is the record of three months on mule back." Yet such chapters as "Red Lalibela" and "Concerning Women" have no place it seems to us, in a travelogue. Mrs. Forbes would have done better to sort her material and make two volumes of the wealth of data she has at hand.

Miss Christie's account of Khiva, Bokhara, and Samarkand is interesting chiefly because this corner of Asia is so often forgotten. She has exhumed the old legends of Tamerlane and been more than fortunate in her attempt to recapture the glamor of the Arabian Nights. This volume, which would also stand some pruning, is, we regret to say, a conspicuously bad example of book-making, being difficult to read and unattractive in practically every feature. Elizabeth Crump Enders needs no introduction to readers who know her earlier sketches of China. "Temple Bells and Silver Sails" retains the simplicity of her other work, somewhat reinforced by a vivid account of a dangerous trip through the Gorges of the Upper Yangtze River. Mrs. Enders does not have to go in search of her scene, as her home for some years has been in China.

In "Yes, Lady Saheb," Grace Thompson Seton has accomplished what Mrs. Forbes failed to do. She has successfully fused travel impressions with historical and sociological fact. She also describes a journey, but in her case the supplementary information given on religious, political, and educational subjects is artistically woven into the whole. We find the same characteristic in Colonel Powell's book, but Mrs. Seton has gone far beyond the other authors in producing a book which is for all time. "Yes, Lady Saheb," in subject matter and physical presentation, is the prize of this collection. India comes alive in these pages and one feels the pulsating, throbbing, organic life of a land, age-old, yet still in its infancy. There is breadth in Mrs. Seton's vision and she brings together many of the diffused elements which have so long made India an enigma.



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