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Review

Reviewed Work(s): *Social Pathology in China* by Herbert Day Lamson

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traversed the whole length of the district of Po-tö (Upper Po-yul) emerging into the province of Kham, their main objective being to reach the source of the Mekong (the Nak-po Chu or Black River of the book's title). They were well on their way to this when they were unfortunately stopped by a suspicious Dzung-pen who held them in virtual captivity for nearly three months while he communicated with Lhasa.

This long delay upset their plans, and from this spot they were obliged to abandon their main objective and to turn east and south again. But the return journey was not wasted, as they travelled by a different route and continued their survey and their collections over large unexplored areas, until after nearly two years' wandering, they emerged by the course of the Lohit river into Assam near Sadiya.

Mr. Hanbury-Tracy's book is charmingly written, and he gives vivid sketches of the servants, the native inhabitants, and of the more sophisticated officials who are deputed from Lhasa to govern these outlying parts of Tibet. And he includes some dramatic descriptions of the physical features of those areas where the great Tibetan rivers, turning south, have scoured for themselves vast troughs bounded on either side by almost precipitous mountains.

Mr. Hanbury-Tracy has, in fact, produced a most interesting book of travel which describes a little-known country and people in a pleasant and readable form. There are numerous illustrations and a sketch-map on the cover.

F. O'C.

**SOCIAL PATHOLOGY IN CHINA.** By HERBERT DAY LAMSON. *Shanghai: The Commercial Press, 1934. 9 × 6 inches; xviii + 608 pages. \$4*

This unpretentious but valuable work is so pertinent to the understanding of many aspects of the situation in China that the delay in reviewing it may not be without advantage if it calls attention to what is rightly described in the Foreword as "a source book for the study of fundamental social problems, such as livelihood, health, and the family, as they exist in China to-day." This Foreword was contributed by the late Dr. Herman C. Liu, and both he and the University of Shanghai, of which he was the distinguished President, have been among the victims of the present conflict. As Professor of Sociology in the same University Mr. Lamson had for many years collected and analysed the data presented in this book, which is primarily intended for Chinese students and social workers. This fact determines its form and arrangement, but at the same time it is of great value to Western readers who wish to understand those basic social and economic problems which condition the present struggle and the whole outlook for China, whatever the issue of that struggle may be. It is comprehensive, well balanced, and illuminating, and, while it is encyclopaedic in character, the different parts are so well inter-related that the whole forms a coherent picture. The summaries are particularly useful, such as that which evaluates in Chapter V the conditions favourable and unfavourable to Chinese industrial development. From this and similar analyses in other parts of the book it is clear that the majority of the barriers to Chinese economic and social progress are removable and in many cases have in fact begun to yield to the efforts of reformers. Mr. Lamson has a strong belief in the fine qualities, vitality, and resilience of the Chinese people, but he does not minimize the gravity and magnitude of the problems which confront them, and these are set out clearly and concisely, with adequate illustration and careful documentation.

About one-half of the book is concerned with the related problems of overpopulation, standard of comfort, and health of the people. The author finds the root-cause of rural poverty and unrest in overpopulation rather than in the

agrarian economic system, as is strongly indicated by the fact that poverty is considerably more acute in the Northern Plain than in the Yang-tze valley, although peasant proprietorship is far more dominant in the former than in the latter.

Part III of Mr. Lamson's book deals very judiciously with the great problem of the reconstruction of the family, which epitomizes China's need for reconstituting her social system without destroying the solid foundations on which it has so long rested, and which raises the whole question of the extent to which Western concepts and modes of life can be selected, adapted, and assimilated without essential loss of vitality. The author's view of China's future is indicated in one of his final sentences: "There is a racial and cultural virility here which, if wisely guided and released from the heavy weights which now oppress it, may be depended upon to raise China to her rightful place among the societies of the earth."

P. M. R.

#### AFRICA

A VICARIOUS TRIP TO THE BARBARY COAST. By MARY BERENSON.  
*London: Constable and Co., 1938. 9 × 6 inches; viii + 146 pages; illustrations and sketch-map. 7s 6d*

In the words of the authoress the intention of this book is "purely aesthetic and touristic." The text is partly excerpts from the letters sent by her husband and some friends to the authoress, who was prevented by illness from accompanying them, and which contain accounts of the personal reactions to places they had not previously visited, along with much of the detail of the daily round of several archaeologically and art-minded people during a journey in Tripolitania. For the rest, the text includes literary gleanings by the authoress, who was stimulated to read much relevant material, and a considerable amount of the comment one would tend to expect from a sensitive woman, well read in classical literature and with a leaning to art and literature in general. The book makes pleasant reading, and contains excellent photographs of the statuary, mosaics, and ruined buildings of classical Greek and Roman civilization in the parts visited, as well as of present-day native and Italian life there. The real journey occupied a little over a month in the spring of 1935, and was from Naples to Tripoli with excursions to Leptis Magna and Ghadames, and then to Benghazi, with a visit to Cyrene and other places on the way.

W. F.

ART RUPESTRE AU HOGGAR (HAUT MERTOUTEK). By F. DE CHASSELOUP LAUBAT. *Paris: Librairie Plon, 1938. 9½ × 7 inches; iv + 64 pages; illustrations, drawings by GEORGE AROUTUNOFF, and sketch-maps*

This little work is of very considerable importance to all students interested in the rock-shelter art of northern Africa. The author expressly states that he is an explorer rather than a scientific archaeological investigator, but he has succeeded in compiling a volume which will be of permanent interest. The sites mostly occur in the gorges of the Oued Mertoutek, which open in the granite massif of Tefedest. They consist of rock shelters hollowed in this granite, or formed by overhanging boulders upon the sloping sides of which are groups of engravings and paintings. A map is given which shows at once the general situation. It covers part of the area enclosed between latitudes 22° and 26° N. and longitudes 4° and 8° E.: a mountainous region almost in the middle of the great Sahara to the south of Algeria. The rock shelters fall into three groups, at three different altitudes: low, middle, and upper. The low-level group has yielded both engravings and one set of paintings, and these differ in style completely from the art seen in the rock shelters of the middle and upper groups,