

modulation of the harmony that is astonishingly effective. Some of the simple weather incantations like No. 90, for instance, have a wistful plaintiveness that is most appealing. One song, (No. 125) said to be a Russian song is a masterpiece of syncopation and kaleidoscopic modulations. It is fair to state, however, that the person most familiar with these songs, the transcriber herself, has a very high opinion of their musical value.

We find plenty of single songs here and there in Indian music that are beautiful, along with many that are not, but from the country where it is nearly always winter is brought a collection of songs that for their generally high musical merit, for real loveliness, it is hard to find a counterpart in more favored lands.

DERRICK NORMAN LEHMER

Ancient Hawaiian Music. HELEN H. ROBERTS. (Bulletin 29 of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1926.)

The songs studied in this Bulletin were obtained in Kauai on the west, Oahu in the center, and Hawaii to the east. The collection may be considered as representative of all the islands, and the collector is certain that the possible failure to collect many local specimens from unvisited islands, while regrettable, is not vital to the survey as a whole. In all about two hundred tunes were taken of which some hundred and fifty are reproduced in musical notation. Sixty phonograph records have been set aside for preservation.

This bulletin provides a very valuable addition to our knowledge of primitive music. The careful analysis of the songs is a monument to the patience and industry of the author, who has not only given us a very complete and accurate account of Hawaiian music and musical instruments, but has also tried to indicate correspondences with the art of other peoples.

The music of these islanders as given in this bulletin impresses the reader as being extraordinarily monotonous. Even the music of the Eskimo, which it resembles in many respects, is more tuneful. It seems, as Miss Roberts observes, to be constructed to lie downward from the prevailing level and not to be built upward from it. This is an interesting basis of classification and might be used to advantage in the study of the music of American Indians. It is used by the author in trying to trace Hawaiian music to its source. The same object is attempted in the study of the various types of instruments.

A very interesting chapter is given over to the geographical distribution of music and instruments like the Hawaiian.

The author also touches on a particularly interesting point in discussing the possibility of the actual existence of part-singing among the natives before the advent of the white man. While there may have been, and probably was a kind of singing which was non-unison

The manner of harmonizing observable today in much of the native singing shows that the ideas of consonance and dissonance that we have never existed among the Hawaiians.

DERRICK NORMAN LEHMER

AFRICA

The Peoples of Southern Nigeria (I: Historical Notes, xii, 365 pp. 5 maps. II; III: Ethnology, xx, 976 pp., 18 maps, 251 ills. IV: Linguistics and Statistics, 234 pp.). P. AMAURY TALBOT, Resident. New York: Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1926. (\$23.50.)

In 1921 Mr. Talbot, who had already made ethnography his debtor by a fascinating volume on the Ekoi (*In the Shadow of the Bush*, 1912) was requested to conduct a census of his wards and to sketch their ethnography. The result is embodied in this gigantic report. The population dealt with is set at well over eight millions and embraces a vast number of tribes, classified under the three main heads of Sudanese, Semi-Bantu, and Bantu. Except for the Bali and their neighbors of the extreme northeast, the Sudanese occupy the western and central regions of the province. They include such famous tribes as the Yoruba, the Bini of Benin, and the Ibo. In his two ethnographic volumes the author has organized his material under such captions as Religion, Magic, Marriage, Social Organization, Occupations and Industries. In each of these sections a general survey is followed by tribal sketches, the order followed being geographical, from west to east.

An omnivorous reader, Mr. Talbot cannot always restrain himself from introducing references of questionable relevance, but this occasionally disturbing element is a veritable peccadillo in view of the vast amount of excellent descriptive material here brought together. Only a few of the many interesting data can be selected for mention here.