before publishing the results of his linguistic researches he can certainly not be reproached with producing what was not properly matured. From the existence of a number of Sanskrit inscriptions in Achinese territory he rightly concludes that the Hindu immigration in Sumatra must have proceeded from the North-East coast of Achin. The early traces of Hindu influence in the vocabulary of the native race were subsequently more or less obliterated by the ascendency which the Islam gained. The results, however, of these extraneous influences were so different in different parts of the territory, that at present four main dialects of the language may be distinguished, of which the one spoken in the twenty-five and the twenty-six Mukims (or parishes) takes the lead. In the "Tijdschrift" of the Geographical Society of the Hague for 1888, there is a valuable article by the same author on the West Coast of Achin, in which details are given concerning the four languages spoken there in addition to the Achinese dialects, and the districts are specified in which each language prevails. (See "Afdeeling: meer uitgebreide artikelen," pp. 508-14.)

The language itself, though Malayans in its whole conformation and possessing a large ingredient of Malay words, occupies an independent place of its own; it would appear to be nearer akin to the Batak than to the Malay proper. The Arabic character with which it is written seems even less adapted to it than it is to Malay. We fail to see, e.g., what force or function the purely Arabic letter "ins" has in such native words as "G", as far as (= Malay "sumpec"), and "oi", to creep. We beg leave to refer for a number of valuable philological observations on this language to a review of the two works under notice in "De Indische Gids" for June, pp. 1055-63, and would only add, with regard to the literature, that even when the Achinese power was at its height early in the seventeenth century, the Sultans caused the laws and chronicles of the country to be written in Malay, and that, if subsequently many books were written in the vernacular, most manuscripts have perished since in the fierce war with the Dutch, so that Achinese MSS. are of extremely rare occurrence. However, in the article previously referred to on the West Coast of Achin, no fewer than ten works written in Achine are specified. The author has therefore laid the student under all the greater obligations by a selection of extracts from those Achinese works, which form the second part of his grammar. They are all (pp. 95-158) in the Arabic character, the first three also romanized, and the first five accompanied by a Dutch translation. It should also be mentioned that on Mr. van Langen’s return to India, the task of carrying the grammar and dictionary through the press devolved on Dr. Wijnmaalen, the learned Secretary of the Asiatic Society of The Hague, who has acquitted himself of it with his wonted scrupulous care and conscientiousness, and that both that Society and the Dutch Colonial Office deserve much credit for having subsidized both works, the production of which, at the hands of the well-known publishers Messrs. M. Nijhoff & Co., leaves nothing to be desired.

Epigraphia Indica and Record of the Archeological Survey of India. Edited by Jas. Burgess, Director-General of the Archeological Survey of India. Parts I.—III.

Hitherto the student of Indian inscriptions had to search for the records as yet published in the pages of various learned Periodicals of India and Europe, besides the volumes of the Archeological Survey and other independent works. The foundation of a new Quarterly exclusively devoted to Epigraphy is sure to meet with a very warm reception, therefore, on the part of all students of Indian History.

Dr. Burgess has succeeded in securing the assistance of the most competent scholars in every branch of Indian Epigraphy, and the majority of the records published in the first three parts possess an exceptional value and interest. Thus Prof. Bühler has edited and translated, among other noteworthy inscriptions, the recently discovered twelfth Edict of King Asoka according to the Shadbhaghari version, and the equally new copper plate of king Harsha, which was obtained by Dr. Führer from the Collector of Azemgarh. This grant of king Harsha, together with the Sonpat seal deciphered by Mr. Fleet, is the only authentic record of one of the most eminent personages in the ancient history of India, and extremely important both as confirming the statements of Harsha’s biographer Bana, and of Hiouen Thang, and for correcting and enlarging them. The genealogical portion of the grant under notice refers to three more predecessors of Harsha, besides those mentioned by Bana and the Chinese traveler. The latter authority tries to make a Buddhist of Harsha; but in the grant, Harsha describes himself as a worshipper of Mahévéra or Siva. The foot-note signed A. F. undoubtedly comes from Dr. A. Führer, who has long been engaged on a new edition of the Shihhrasambhara. It is satisfactory to know that the best MSS. of Bana’s work agree with the grant in giving Yalamati as the name of Prabhākarvardhanā’s queen. The Central Provinces inscriptions, which have been deciphered by Prof. Kielhorn, belong to the twelfth century, and throw a great deal of new light on the history of the Chedi dynasty of Ratnapur, and of neighbouring dynasties. The Badam inscription, edited by the same scholar, contains a list of the early rulers of that town, none of whom had been known hitherto. Prof. Kielhorn has published, moreover, no less than eight old inscriptions from Khajuraho, Kharjitravarahika, another ancient town in the North-West Provinces, in which the rise and history of the Chandellas of Bundelkhand is recorded; and we are looking forward very much to his promised edition of the important Siyadoni inscription, to be published in Part IV. Dr. Hultzsch, of the Madras Archeological Survey, has contributed a number of difficult grants and other inscriptions from different parts of India. We are glad to learn that the same scholar’s work on the inscriptions of Southern India, which is likely to prove an excellent starting-point for all future inquiries into South Indian history, is on the eve of publication. Prof. Eggeling’s careful edition and translation of the interesting inscription found in a
well near Delhi, in which a brief abridgment of the history of that city is given, is highly welcome, although that inscription had been twice edited before.

The correctness of Prof. Eggeling's proposed identification of the term pratigana with the modern pargana 'a district,' is borne out by the fact that the same result has been arrived at, independently, by Dr. Hultzsch in his edition of that inscription (Journal of the Germ. O. S. xl. p. 58). If possible, the number of facsimiles should be increased in the future issues of the Journal of European student: by elaborating a practical manual in which, according to a skilfully devised analytical method, all the facts of the language are stated, explained and richly illustrated by examples.

These examples are chosen with a view to the practical acquisition of the vernacular and to the imparting of much useful knowledge concerning the literature, customs, habits, household occupations, etc., of the people, and the natural history and government of the country. It is one of the most practically useful grammars we have seen. Full and ample indices facilitate reference to its rich and varied contents. As for beauty of type and general correctness the book leaves nothing to be desired and reflects, as indeed need we name Gildemeister?—there is, we are convinced, not another living Orientalist possessed of such a command of the Arabic and Sanskrit languages and literatures, as is indispensable to any one who would attempt this task, and, if there were, we doubt whether he could have accomplished it more satisfactorily. Professor Sachau gratefully acknowledges the aid afforded him by Sanskritists such as Kielland and


Professor Sachau's translation of Alberuni's Indica is now before us. Whoever glances, even superficially, at the contents of these two handsome volumes, cannot but feel impressed with the vast amount of honest, painstaking and unflinching labour which is represented in this translation. With a single exception—need we name Gildemeister?—there is, we are convinced, not another living Orientalist possessed of such a command of the Arabic and Sanskrit languages and literatures, as is indispensable to any one who would attempt this task, and, if there were, we doubt whether he could have accomplished it more satisfactorily. Professor Sachau gratefully acknowledges the aid afforded him by Sanskritists such as Kielland and