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in Arabia a clergy similar to the Christian one, ought to have been avoided. The chapter, "Our Brother of Jordan," has little connection with the rest of the book.

The genealogical tables at the end of the volume with their accurate notes are a useful contribution to the history of the Saudi dynasty, and the beautiful photos augment the value of the book. We must thank Mr. Philby for having once more made known to the outer world his most interesting Arabian experiences.

♦ MARIA NALLINO, Assistant Editor of *Oriente Moderno*, has travelled in Saudi Arabia, and edited the books on Arabia written by her father, C. A. Nallino.

The Economic Development of Iraq. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press (Published for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), 1952. xvi + 119 pages. \$5.00.

Reviewed by Robert Sethian

Iraq has promising natural resources and the prospect of sizeable oil revenues, estimated at some ID 214 million for the next five years. The problem of the country's economic development is, therefore, chiefly a question of wise planning and the efficient implementation of plans.

The Mission to Iraq organized by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development faced this problem with a great deal of realism. The report of the Mission examines, sector by sector, the problems of Iraq's agriculture, irrigation projects, industry, transport, health, education, and community planning. It scrutinizes existing conditions and institutions, evaluates potentialities, appraises government projects, and recommends practical rules of management for their implementation. In a series of recommendations the Mission sets up a five-year program with an estimated outlay of ID 168.5 million and points to the impact of such a large public expenditure on the economy of the country. It also recommends raising standards of efficiency throughout the government, improving statistical services, and complementing local efforts by foreign technical aid.

As a constructive review of the economy of Iraq and its development projects, the report is a highly useful document. Its recommenda-

tions are generally sound, though some of them raise debatable questions of economic policy. Such is the plan for a government-financed chemical plant utilizing waste oil-field gas at a cost of ID 25 million or 15% of the total outlay recommended for the program. While there is a widespread and understandable feeling that the waste gas should be utilized, there appear no pressing considerations of social benefit or basic service to necessitate such a large expenditure of public funds. The Mission points out that this is the type of new and untried field of investment which does not for the moment appeal to private capital. Yet, if the Mission's estimate that the plant may show net earnings of 18.5% on the investment is correct, this would be a very attractive proposition and an excellent occasion for the Government to encourage the participation of private enterprise in the task of developing the country's economy.

It is this interrelationship of the public and private sectors of the economy that the report has not considered sufficiently. The Mission may have deemed this to be beyond its mandate. But it is so important for a well-balanced development of Iraq's economy that it should be fully studied, for in the last analysis the results of the program both in terms of increased productivity and of higher living standards will be determined by the economic structure of the country as a whole. It is true that oil revenues should not be frittered away and that expenditures on capital works, education, and health are permanent contributions to the country's welfare. But it is equally true that the program cannot be successfully carried out without a substantial improvement of private economic institutions and of the basic services afforded to it by the Government.

It is understandable that the Mission should have endorsed the principle of setting aside oil revenues exclusively for development projects. Despite the merits of such an approach, it must be recognized that it puts a severe limitation on the help that can be extended to improving the administrative efficiency of government personnel which will be responsible for the implementation of the program. The Mission fully recognizes this and repeatedly urges that means be found to improve administrative services. But so far as can be ascertained, its estimate of the cost of the program provides no funds for

this purpose. Here again there seems a need to reevaluate the relative importance of development projects as against the necessity of improving the administrative machinery of the country as a means of raising living standards.

Despite the debatable aspects of its programming of developments, the Mission's report offers a wealth of information and a penetrating analysis of Iraq's problems in its efforts to raise the standard of living of its people in a relatively short time.

◆ ROBERT SETHIAN is an economist who has specialized in Middle Eastern affairs.

INDIA

My India, by Jim Corbett. New York: Oxford, 1952. 163 pages. \$3.00.

Reviewed by Charlotte Viall Wiser

Jim Corbett sets out in *My India* with every intention of telling about people he has known. But as long as there are tigers and leopards in the forests of his Kumaon Hills, they steal the show. The men and women are there, but they owe most of their interest to encounters with carnivorous neighbors. Even when he leaves the kills, he manages to pick up a new kind of trail — that of Sultana, most dramatic of India's modern brigands, as dangerous (and elusive) as the man-eaters of the Kumaon.

Obviously Captain Corbett is at home in the forests of the Kumaon and finds it easy to write about the farmers and woodsmen there. Most of his heroes are his own tenants: "my men," "my people." But in the forest, where dangers must be shared by all equally, where birth counts more than wealth, and where men are self-reliant and women outspoken, the landlord-tenant relationship is relaxed and friendly. His best stories are of ordinary hillmen of extraordinary courage and loyalty, like Haria, the basketmaker, who pulls his brother out from under a tiger and carries him miles to safety. And there are women like Kunthi who at twenty helps her husband build their flimsy hut close beside the forest and does her share toward supporting the family by cutting grass up and down the hills over an area of ten miles, apparently trusting the tigers, leopards, hyenas, bear, and pythons who are their neighbors. Her faith is justified

when not one of them touches her small son or daughter during the three days and nights they spend alone, lost in the forest.

When the author breaks away completely from adventure and attempts to describe laborers at the dreary railway ferry of Mokameh Ghat, on the Ganges, he grows dull. These railway laborers are not like the men of the hills. And when Jim Corbett, as supervisor, tries to treat them as he does his Kumaon tenants, he becomes the self-conscious benefactor. The employees who accept his lavish favors are the ones he describes. After five chapters of them, with only slight relief provided by a hermit and a snake, one longs to return to an honest-to-goodness adventure in the hills.

The reader will enjoy *My India* more if he remembers that this is the India of twenty or more years ago, when personal relationships were more important than they are now, and when most men found their security in attaching themselves to someone like Jim Corbett who served as "father and mother" or "protector of the poor." As "father and mother," Captain Corbett is able to introduce his readers to men and women whom few Americans have ever known, men and women who are inarticulate before strangers. And should they speak, few would understand their "country bumpkin" dialect as Jim Corbett does. They help make up the crowds photographed by tourists. They are of interest to the experts primarily because of their poverty and malaria. And they are usually treated as part of the illiterate masses to be uplifted by their sophisticated countrymen. In this book they are acknowledged as individuals, most of them individuals one would like to know better.

◆ CHARLOTTE VIALL WISER has assisted her husband in a number of intensive studies of village life in north India since 1916.

IRAN

The Persian Corridor and Aid to Russia, by T. H. Vail Motter. Washington: Department of the Army, 1952. xvii + 545 pages. \$3.50.

Reviewed by George Lenczowski

This is an official history of the impressive work done by the Persian Gulf Command in

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