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“ shape of the conventional *xochitl* or flower, with a circle in the centre of the “ four petals. This sign appears as a place-name combined with 7 calli, above “ and also below the head of an animal (the day-sign, four *tochili*?) and is once “ surmounted by the *tzonli* = 400.”

“ The cross-barred signs above the disks resemble the sign for *çintli* or ripe “ maize. One occurs in combination with the large *tepetl* on the right hand of the “ map, in the centre of the base. The seventeen signs in which it is combined “ with the place-name probably refer to the production of maize in the place.” Metlaltoyuca, where the map was found, was said locally to be named as “ the place where maize was grown.” Perhaps in the course of her researches Mrs. Nuttall may find further material to enlighten the subject of this interesting map. A. C. BRETON.

REVIEW.

Central Asia: Exploration.

Sykes.

Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia. By Miss Ella Sykes, F.R.G.S., and Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G. London: Macmillan & Co. 1920.

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This book falls into two parts: an account of an adventurous journey from Europe to Central Asia in war time, and an ethnographical and historical description of Chinese Turkestan. The first part is the work of Miss Sykes, an experienced traveller in the East, the second by her brother, whose wide knowledge of the problems of Western Asia is shown in his valuable *History of Persia*. To Miss Sykes belongs the honour of being the first Englishwoman to cross the dangerous passes leading to and from the Pamir, and, with the exception of Mrs. Littledale, to visit Khotan. In March, 1915, the travellers left London for Kashgar, the capital of Chinese Turkestan, where Sir Percy Sykes had been appointed to succeed Sir G. Macartney as Consul-General. The record of this journey and the important tours which followed is brightly written and is full of interest. The most important parts of the adventure are the record of the journey to Khotan and of the trip to the Pamir. The book is valuable as an account from personal investigation of the strange complex of races which make up the population of Chinese Turkestan: the Sarikoli and Pakhpo mountaineers, who are pure Aryans; the desert group Aryans with some Uighur admixture; the Kirghiz, Dulanis, and people of Aksu; and the Chinese and Mongols, whose differentiation from the Kirghiz is noteworthy. This monograph by Sir Percy Sykes contains much fresh information and deserves the attention of ethnographers. The culture of this region bears strong marks of Chinese origin; the inhabitants were Buddhists before their conversion to the Sunni form of Islam in the tenth century, looking for guidance to the Khan of Bokhara and the Sultan of Turkey. Now Muslim saints have occupied the ancient Buddhist holy places, and ancestor worship, which also came from China, results in more frequent visits to the tombs of saints than in other parts of Central Asia. Among the more interesting points the following may be noticed: the custom of temporary marriages; the habit of placing a new-born child during the winter in a skin full of powdered cow-dung, the head only being left outside; the demons which, as in the time of Marco Polo, haunt the solitudes of the desert; the sanctity of pigeons at Kaptar Mazzar; the trade in jade; the braiding of a woman's hair after marriage, the rite not depending on the birth of a child; the eating of earth from the grave of a saint as a cure for barrenness; the throwing of mud on the wall of a shrine to cure skin disease; the use of the blood of pigeons and ducks in cases of poisoning. The book is well supplied with photographs and with a good map. It will be indispensable for the study of the region which the travellers describe.

W. CROOKE.