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## DAS RECHT DER DSHAGGA

*Das Recht der Dshagga*, Von Bruno Gutmann, München, Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1927, pp. 778.

TORDAY, Emil

*Man*, 1928, Vol. 28, Dec., 212. old.

Dr. Gutmann is well known to anthropologists for his valuable researches among the Wachaga, in whose country he lived as a missionary for twenty years before the war. It is to the credit of the British Government that after the hostilities came to an end he was invited to return among the people he knows so well. Many of his writings are scattered through German periodicals and his *Dichten und Denken der Dschagga-Neger* he has produced, in a popular form which detracts nothing of its value, a survey of Chaga beliefs and traditions.

In the present "Chaga Law" he has given to the world his *magnum opus*, a study of their tribal customs, may be equalled by two or three, but is certainly excelled by none. In clear language he describes every aspect of Chaga common law; though its smallest particulars are dealt with, the broad outlook is never obscured, as is frequently the case in modern books. He states his facts and then, with deep sympathy, profound erudition and a remarkable insight into the working of the natives' mind, he expounds the origin and evolution in the course of ages.

The ethnographer, the ethnologist, the student of jurisprudence, and the psychologist will find in this book an abundant source of information and ample food for thought, as well as suggestions for the solution of many a vexed problem.

It is impossible to give a worthy review of his monumental work; few are those who are qualified to do so, and the most cursory survey, would require space which exceeds anything that could be allotted to the reviewer. The book is crammed with new facts and interesting

suggestions; there is so much to be praised and so little to criticise. The only omission one has to record with deep regret is the lack of an index to a work which will serve as a book of reference to all those interested in the African in particular, and primitive man in general.

Our deepest gratitude is due to Dr. Gutmann for his invaluable contribution to our knowledge which, no doubt, will be cherished by posterity as a monument to a phase of African life which is fast passing away.

E. Torday