

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Introduction to Modern Indian Linguistics** (with special reference to Indo-Aryan and Assamese), by S. M. Katre. Pratibha Devi Memorial Lectures 1958, University of Gauhati, 1961, pp. 57; Rs. 6.00.

These four lectures by Professor S. M. Katre, Director and Honorary Professor of Indo-European Philology in the Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute, Poona, provide a most valuable and clear introduction to Indian language studies. The first, 'Historical Background', besides summarizing the progress of Western and Indian linguistics, gives a short account of the work of the Linguistics Department of the Deccan College, Poona, since 1939, and of the Linguistics Society of India founded at Lahore in 1928, transferred to Calcutta in 1938, and since 1954 having its present home at the Deccan College.

In his second lecture, 'The Linguistic Scene in India', Professor Katre pays tribute to the work of Bishop Caldwell, *Comparative Grammar of Dravidian Languages* (1856), surveys the development of Indo-Aryan comparative philology in the nineteenth century, and discusses the place of the Munda and Tibeto-Burman languages in India. He alludes to the work of Sir George Grierson in conducting the *Linguistic Survey of India* at the close of the nineteenth century, and the need of new survey work at the present time. Professor Katre's third subject, 'Modern Indian Linguistics', is a demonstration of how comparative and historical methods throw light on the modern Indo-Aryan languages, including Assamese. His last, 'On Some Applications of Linguistics', stresses that the origins of linguistic science lay in the need for interpreting classical texts (whether Latin, Greek or Sanskrit), a sphere to which it was largely confined till modern Christian missions, with their programme of translating the Bible into many unrecorded languages, gave the subject a new impetus. Professor Katre outlines his hopes for the development of Linguistics departments in the Indian universities, and points to ways in which linguists can help meet the needs of the country in primary education, the possibilities in speech pathology, and the devising of shorthand, typewriters and better type founts for the regional languages. He is right in his emphasis on usage by the common people as being the final arbiter in language, and in encouraging a scientific rather than an emotional approach to the linguistic problems with which India abounds. This is a rewarding book.

G. E. MARRISON

**Bibliography of Sino-Tibetan Languages**, by Robert Shafer. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1957, pp. xi, 211; Dm. 30.00.

In this bibliography, Mr Shafer has attempted to bring together materials covering all the Sino-Tibetan languages, from Chinese on the one hand, to some of the small languages of Assam spoken by less than 1,000 people on the other. The body of the work consists of about 3,500 entries, under alphabetical order of languages, followed by a list of 'Language Variants',

that is, alternative names, and an author index. The longest and most valuable sections, on Burmese, Chinese, Siamese and Tibetan, are further divided by subject matter. Vietnamese, whose classification has provided sport for generations of linguists, has been excluded, except for a few references under 'Foreign Transcriptions of Chinese', and a section headed 'Wider Relationships'.

The work contains numerous useful references for the Tibeto-Burman languages of the Himalayas and North-East India and Burma, and the hill languages of Thailand, Indo-China and the Yunnan; but the choice of titles for these languages, and the lack of explanation of how the classification has been made, make these sections a little difficult to use. For example, in the case of the Naga languages of the Indo-Burma frontier, Shafer has followed very largely the headings used in the *Linguistic Survey of India*, which were admittedly tentative, and in many cases have been superseded. 'Zeme Naga' finds no place as such either in the body of the work, or under 'Language Variants', yet the material is there under 'Empeo', a term no longer generally known or used, being in fact no more than a corruption of a village name, 'Impoi', where British officers made contacts with the Zemes in the nineteenth century. Similarly 'Tangkhul Naga' has to be sought under 'Luhupa' and 'Ukhrul'.

This work would have been better if it had included a systematic index, showing the basis on which the languages had been classified. As it is, the author's own individualistic conclusions have been applied without elucidation. Nevertheless, this bibliography will be of great utility to all concerned with Sino-Tibetan studies.

G. E. MARRISON

**The Amplified Old Testament, Part Two.** Grand Rapids, Zondervan, pp. 1213; \$4.95.

*A review of The Amplified New Testament was published in The Bible Translator of July 1959 (pp. 132-5), and as the Old Testament part of this version is based on the same principles, we do not here print an extensive review. This present review is reprinted by kind permission of Eternity magazine.<sup>1</sup>—Ed.*

The reason for this volume is indicated in the introduction: 'Our divine assignment began where that of others left off. It intended to reveal, together with the single-word English equivalent to each key Hebrew word, any other clarifying shades of meaning that may have been concealed by the traditional word-for-word method of translation.' Despite the observation that this is the first time it has been done, the fact remains that there have been good and poor paraphrases of Scripture dotting our history for the past several centuries.

Psalms 51, for instance, somewhat more than 300 words in the Authorized Version, has been supplemented by the following: 36 words added without

<sup>1</sup> *Eternity* magazine, copyright 1963, The Evangelical Foundation, 1716 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa., U.S.A.