

NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE HILL TRIBES OF NORTHERN SIAM.

According to the American Bible Society's forty-first annual report of the Siam and Laos Agency for the year 1931, there are about 3000 Miao or Mæo and an equal number of the related Yao living in Siamese territory, *i. e.*, within the confines of the Circle of Phayap. Further an Annamite Christian, Mr. Trung, in the service of the Bible Agency, has succeeded in translating the gospel of St. Mark, into the languages of the Mæo and Yao.

In view of this information being both of ethnological and philological interest for the study of these remote living mountain tribes, it will be recalled that small monographs in the form of replies to the Siam Society's Questionnaire, treating the life, manners and languages of the Mæo and Yao, have been published in Siamese (with English translations) in the Journal of the Siam Society, respectively in Volume XVIII, Part 3, and Volume XIX, Part 2.

In this connection the following passage culled from the above mentioned report, of which Reverend Robert Irwin, D. D., is the author, may also be of interest:—

“To bring the gospel to the multitude of mountain tribes of South-Eastern Asia, we need an expert linguist and extraordinary all-round man to make a survey of them. We estimate it will take about ten years and cost of \$2500 gold a year. Such a survey would give definite information about the tribes (the number of which the Doctor estimates at fifty-four) and their relations to one another in language, religious ideas and customs and make possible their grouping together into a few groups and make mission work intelligent and economical.”

ERIK SEIDENFADEN

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