troyed the IMRO organisation in Macedonia. Thus Bulgaria's ability during these years of struggle to speak for the Macedonians and to press its claims over the area was denied and the status quo ante of 1897 was more or less re-established by the Greek and Serbian armed bands only to be dissolved with the two Balkan Wars.

It can only be hoped that accounts as impartial as Professor Dakin's covering this period will also appear giving the Serbian and Bulgarian sides to what, at least in the past, has always been so emotional a subject. Largely based on the Archives of the Greek Foreign Ministry and those of the British Foreign Office, on unpublished private sources, on interviews, on official published documentation, as well as on biographies, mémoires, and secondary sources, this voluminous book will long remain the definitive work on the subject.

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Those of us who have visited Mount Athos during the past thirty years cannot be unfamiliar with the name Loch. Some of us will have enjoyed the hospitality of the Tower by the sea at Prosphori. Such readers will turn eagerly to this book. Not all of it is about Prosphori (Mrs. Loch prefers Proshorion) for the autobiography runs fresh and sparkling over a lifetime of more than threescore years and ten. But what especially grips the mind is the "huge Byzantine tower" at the village guarding the way to Athos, rising up "mystic, wonderful" (113). The author's father would say to his children "What have you ever done?" (24). The question could be answered very well in this case, for Joice Loch during her thirty years at "the Tower" (239) has achieved a reputation for practical help which will not soon be forgotten in the history of Greece and particularly Macedonia.

Here we meet a most uncommon woman. Australian by birth she has spent a busy life in repairing what war has wrecked: in Poland, in Russia and in Greece. At the same time she has a shrewd eye and a ready pen. A brisk sense of humour does not hide her "concern" (the Quaker term which keeps cropping up) and her deep compassion for her less fortunate
fellow men and women. Start anywhere, and you must go on reading. The horse cured by NEVERFAIL (43), Canberra as “can of beer” (48), the Russian exemplification of the adage “that no country can be run without a slave basis” (87), the description of the choir (91), the sound words about wine (106), the intruder (117), the reputed influence of garlic on the unborn child (125), the woman who gave birth to a hare (131), the allusions to the events of 1939 (“our misrulers” without the specific naming of Chamberlain), the eloquent tribute to the Via Egnatia (218), the murder of Aspasia’s husband Constantine (228), the Bacchic behaviour of the women and girls (236) — the wizardry of the author’s writing is always there to carry us forward to the last page — a poignant Earth Song which somehow takes the present reviewer back to “the Tower by the Sea.”

If a complaint is to be made it is simply that relatively little space is given to Prosphori although shown in the drawing on the title page. Athos looms up for the first time on p. 112. Part IV (167-205) intervenes between the first and the second habiting of the Tower. Although we can certainly read Sydney Loch’s own excellent Hagiorite testament, we might expect from his wife rather more room for their joint labours in their adopted village, now indelibly and officially mapped as “Ouranoupolis” but quite probably the Dion of ancient times (161 and 240). The reviewer’s own four visits to Athos prompt the inevitable question: “Where would Ouranoupolis be today without the Lochs?” And this in turn leads to the reflection what a happy partnership this one was, Sydney going to the monasteries to procure designs and Joice distilling the dyes from her onions. Such pioneering as the carpet industry (a specimen rug is shown in the plate opposite p. 199) is hard to parallel anywhere in the world, and to call this industry “unique” (122) is not an exaggeration. Surely here is one of the striking achievements of northern Greece in modern times, and one which will long inspire the Greek mind. Yet Joice Loch writes very modestly “Finally I managed to achieve . . . . ” (123) and “When the industry was on its feet again I turned it over . . . . ” (238). What a good thing Australia came to dwell so close to Athos! The challenge of the poverty-stricken village of Northern Greece was as tough to overcome as the bush had been.

As the book is autobiographical Sydney makes somewhat rare and fleeting appearances. His entry on p. 63 is (?) studiedly casual, and after some of the earlier gossip about Australian relatives one might like to know a little more about the marriage, since it had such happy results.
Sydney would go off for weeks. Anybody who has met him will accept immediately the statement "One of the nice things about Sydney was his ability to see another person's point of view." It is amusing to be told, shortly after that, that he could be taken to be Lawrence of Arabia. Whenever he comes on to the stage, he performs adroitly. He may remind some of the ancient Pliny studying the eruption of Vesuvius, when he is shown timing the earthquakes carefully with his watch (144). It is amusing to see him answering the Quaker's question about whether he was a Friend with the pithy "Merely an acquaintance." The sight of him "dressed only in soap" (134) must have had its appropriate effect on the old woman who was always saying "Then Akouo." (134).

The graphic phrases abound. Let the reader look e.g. at pp. 102, 103, 124, 144, 145, and 210. A misprint appears on p. 89, where the word should, of course, be "atheist." Is "decimated" on p. 62 used correctly? The spelling "Gregorious" is odd (154). The citation from Plotinus on p. 58 is welcome, but it is incomplete (1, vi, 9). The utterance can be Englished: "Taking courage for yourself, and now going beyond this world, no longer show that you need a guide, but look, and see."

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REX WITT


The first two of these items, Volumes IV and VIII of the Diplomatic Papers dealing with the Foreign Relations of the United States