entertaining of such innocent hopes. It would have been better had he taken a dispassionate view of the Arab problems.

The book makes quite interesting reading on the whole, but leaves much to be desired. The subject is vast and important, and deserves a comprehensive treatment. Nevertheless, the author has discussed many important topics related to the modern developments in the Middle East.

KARACHI

MUHAMMAD RASHID FEROZE


The late Dr. Muhammad Naqirn's doctoral dissertation entitled The Life and Times of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna (Cambridge, 1931) still holds the field so far as the great Ghaznavid Sultan is concerned. Its appearance outshone and completely eclipsed the rather floppy and 'nationalistic' study of Prof. Muhammad Habib of the Aligarh Muslim University entitled Sultan Mahmud of Ghaznin (Aligarh, 1927 and Delhi, 1951). After a lapse of more than thirty odd years we are now treated with a well-planned, well-written and extremely fine study of the Ghaznavids as a Turkish dynasty, of slave origin, who founded and established an empire which in its brilliance and cultural splendour was overshadowed only by the resplendent 'Abb~sid Caliphate of Baghdad. The world of Islam knows few dynasties whose successes paved the way for the spread of Islam in alien lands so much as did those of the Ghaznavids. Even after the lapse of so many centuries the Hindus of India do not seem to have forgiven the valiant Mahmtid. and practically the first religious act performed in the post-Independence era was that of laying the foundation-stone of the new (or renovated) temple of Somnath at Patan, Verawal "amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns" and sacred songs.

In his refreshingly objective study Dr. Bosworth, Lecturer in Arabic in the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, has compressed a wealth of material, not found elsewhere. Unlike a professional historian he treats his subject with the sympathy, acumen and approach of a scholar who brings to bear the impact of his deep and vast study, his breadth of vision and his unbiased views on the results of his researches. Very few people could claim the modesty which is the hallmark of Dr. Bosworth's profound scholarship. Casting aside the conventional method of writing history as a register of events or an inventory of the ruler's campaigns and victories he has attempted a cultural history of the Ghaznavids with special reference to the administrative, social and military institutions that flourished in the Central and Western provinces of the Empire. The chapter on the 'Court Life and Culture' and that on 'The Social Structure of Nishapur' make not only interesting reading but show how much labour and study has gone into their preparation. These and other chapters will add to the knowledge of the students of Muslim history much that they may not easily come across in the extant works.
Part III of the book which deals with "the coming of the Seljuqs and their triumph in Mas'ud's reign" is something new to those who look upon Mahmud only as a "raider and a plunderer". This book will help correct many a wrong notion and prejudice about the Ghaznavids as also open up the vast and rich panorama of their history still hidden from the eyes of the world.

Dr. Bosworth deserves our warm thanks for offering to the world of scholarship and Islamic history a work of which he may be justly proud. It is, however, a matter of regret that he could pay little attention to the Ghaznavid rule in India where the descendants of Mas'ud, the son and successor of Mahmud, had shifted their capital after the loss of Khurasan and Khwarizm to the Seljuqs. In this context his statement that "an examination of Ghaznavid activity in India would necessitate a knowledge not merely of eastern Islamic history, but also one of Indian history, and a familiarity with a culture region very different from the Islamic one" is rather discouraging. The need for filling this gap is, however, strongly felt and we hope that Dr. Bosworth may like to do so as he appears to be eminently suited for the job.

The book is neatly printed and well got-up. At the end of the text copious and very useful notes to each chapter have been appended. The introductory note on the sources along with an extensive bibliography and explanatory notes not only reveal the extent and depth of the author's study but also show that he has made a very judicious, careful and balanced use of the vast material at his disposal. It is no mean task to utilize critically and methodically a large mass of source-material without running the risk of indulging in indiscriminate borrowings. By writing this work Dr. Bosworth has established his reputation as a scholar of great promise. The book under review will, like its predecessor, Dr. Nazim's work, remain an authority on the subject for a long time to come. Both the author and the publishers deserve our thanks for bringing out this work—an epitome of solid scholarship and painstaking research.

KARACHI

A. S. BAZMEE ANSARI

Notices


This new addition to the already large number of learned periodicals published both in the West and in the East on Islamic studies shall endeavour to mirror, among other objectives of the Institute, "the impact of Islam on India and India's contribution to Islamic studies". One should welcome the establishment of the Institute and the publication of its journal in the hope that they will together form a part of that general pattern of re-awakening of the Muslims and the renaissance of Muslim scholarship which is emerging throughout the world.

From the point of view of content, the present issue of Studies in Islam, unfortunately, does not come up to the standard that should have been expected.