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Professor Pillans considered to be geography. There was now a distinct conception of geography, and its claims were very high indeed. It was a subject that could be made to depend to a great extent on a child's own observations, and was particularly valuable on that account. In the description of the Arctic or the Tropic regions, which interested the child because they were unfamiliar, these regions should be connected with his own country. The influence of hills, of rivers, and of roads could easily be brought home to the children from their own observation, and they should be brought to understand how the facts concerning places influenced human life. Geography was essentially a focussing study, drawing on the studies of languages, physics, chemistry, botany, and history. Particularly interesting was the connection between history and geography, and the child could not fail to be interested in the effect on its history of the geographical situation of such a city as Constantinople. In addition to these advantages, there was also the practical value of geography. He thought that Mr. Strong and Mr. Muir had done well in urging on the School Board the institution of that laboratory, and the Board had done well in providing it.

Subsequently the audience had an opportunity of inspecting the new room as well as other parts of the building, and Mr. Muir showed a series of lantern slides, the lantern being ingeniously arranged, with the help of a mirror, so that it could be worked by the teacher from the platform, and the various points upon the slides demonstrated without the necessity for the teacher turning his back to the audience during the process.

NEW BOOKS.

EUROPE.

Geographical Aspects of Balkan Problems in their Relation to the Great European War. By MARION I. NEWBIGIN, D.Sc. London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1915. Price 7s. 6d. net.

In view of the complexity of its structural, hydrographical, racial, and social conditions, it requires no small courage to attack on modern lines the geography of the Balkan Peninsula. The forbidding nature of the task, however, makes Dr. Newbigin's success all the more striking, and her book will be welcomed as one of the most interesting and suggestive contributions to the literature of the war. Her inclusion of the results of much recent and somewhat inaccessible research and her well-reasoned presentation of the whole subject, combine also to give her book more permanent value as a reliable and up-to-date study of a notoriously difficult region.

In her treatment of existing social and political conditions, Dr. Newbigin steers her way with uniform success through a multitude of biased observations and uncertain deductions and presents the reader with a clear and concise account of the influence of many geographical factors. Her conclusions are likely to prove generally acceptable, and it is only in the matter of speculation as to the future that there is room for difference of opinion. She demonstrates clearly from geographical principles the inherent impossibility of the settlement of frontier problems which was imposed by the Powers upon the Balkan States in 1913, and

directs attention to the possibility of finding a satisfactory solution of many difficulties with the minimum of political upheaval by assigning the Struma Valley to Bulgaria and allowing Serbia an outlet to the Adriatic by way of the Albanian Gap. With the Greeks in Salonika, however, such a solution would imply the permanent partition of Macedonia and of the Vardar Valley, and from the point of view of political stability would appear to traverse the well-established geographical principle, that a coastal state holding the mouth of an important river valley or the terminus of an important line of inland communication occupies a precarious political position and exists only on the sufferance of the interior powers. A virile and progressive Serbia would be unlikely long to remain satisfied with only one indifferent outlet, and that to the Adriatic above Otranto. These are matters, however, which, as Dr. Newbigin remarks, are unfortunately more likely to be solved according to the balance of power after the European War than according to the principles of modern geography.

The Russian Year-Book for 1915. Compiled and edited by N. PEACOCK. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 10s. 6d. net.

Those who have interested themselves in Russian affairs during recent years will learn with regret that Dr. H. P. Kennard, the founder and editor of this year-book, died in May last. His former assistant, Miss Netta Peacock, has now undertaken the sole editorship.

We learn from the preface that a volume of the year-book on similar lines to its predecessors was prepared last year, for publication at the beginning of 1915. But as the period of publication approached, it became obvious that much of the material was useless under the altered conditions brought about by the war. The book was therefore held up until the issue of the new Temporary Customs Tariff afforded a justification for its appearance in a modified form. Much of the matter which has appeared in the previous four issues has disappeared; and in its place there is an account of the state of Russia during the first six months of the war, a lengthy discussion of the directions to which British commercial enterprise may be turned, as well as a diary of the war to the end of June 1915, and sections devoted to other subjects of current interest. In connection with possible future developments of trade between Russia and the United Kingdom, it is noted that whereas the metric system is familiar to the Russians, the complicated British weights and measures are hardly known at all. Very interesting are the notes on the effects on Russian economic life of the virtual cutting off of the external market. The blocking of exits from the Baltic and the Black Sea has necessarily increased the importance of Arkangel and Vladivostok. The latter is said now to be important as a means of commercial communication even with Southern and Western Europe. In the factories the effect of increased sobriety is stated to be such an increase of efficiency as to compensate to a considerable degree for the drain of operatives called to the army. For many other interesting points bearing on war problems we must refer our readers to the book itself.

Denmark and the Danes. By W. J. HARVEY and C. REPIEN. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1915. Price 12s. 6d. net.

Written by an Englishman and a Dane, this valuable work describes how "Denmark, during the last half century, has passed through the throes of a wonderful regeneration. Her peasantry have been emancipated from a condition

of veritable serfdom; her education has been liberalised; her Land System, Agriculture, and Finance have been reorganised and brought to a pitch of excellence." We are told that the Danes possess "an immense capacity for hard work and sustained effort; extreme democratic principles; a strange fatalism which is a mixture of scepticism and hesitation; and finally a complete and wonderful fearlessness in throwing over traditions and prejudices." We are glad to learn that "at the present moment English manners, customs, and ideas are in great demand in the Danish metropolis. An Englishman finds a readier welcome than any other national. The Germans, largely owing to the Sleswick-Holstein trouble, are, as elsewhere on the Continent, not held in any great esteem. English is very generally spoken in the homes, the shops, the clubs, and in business, social, political, and literary circles. Several of the most important booksellers in the Danish capital rely for a large proportion of their profits upon the sale of the best works in modern English literature." One of these (not mentioned by the authors), showing the greatest sympathy with the Danes, is Mr. Edmund Gosse's charming *Two Visits to Denmark*, published in 1911.

The new system of land tenure in Denmark, and its results, will probably attract most attention abroad. The authors consider that the reason why the Danish farmer now takes a superlatively high position is due to "(1) a favourable system of land tenure, (2) advanced and well-developed methods of co-operation, and (3) a close alliance between the theoretical scientist and the practical farmer the laboratory and Mother Earth." The climate of Denmark is much the same as that of Ireland, and the land possesses little fruitfulness. By converting large into small holdings by co-operation, and by a scientific system of agriculture, the Danes have been enabled to overcome the disadvantages of their meagre inheritance and to wring an extraordinarily large return from their soil. "Denmark is to-day largely a country of small peasant proprietors. In the last fifty years some 10,000 farms have become the absolute property of their holders, and at the present time only 27 per cent. of the area of Denmark is burdened with rent." However, the authors add that "the key to the success of Danish farming, indeed the key to the success of all Danish enterprises, may be found ultimately in the question of Education." They inform us that "the headquarters of scientific farming in Denmark are at the Copenhagen High School of Agriculture. This institution was founded in 1858, has a staff of forty professors, and controls experimental stations in various parts of the country. All the year round lectures are given, reports received, experiments made, and assistance afforded to young farmers who are qualifying to take up holdings in the country." The authors proudly add "To-day a Danish farm is a scientific machine as nearly perfect as it is humanly possible to be, a machine in which the possibility of error is all but eliminated." No Scottish agriculturalist should fail to read this inspiring record of Danish success, which corroborates the report of the Scottish Commission on Agriculture to Denmark in 1904.

Chapters on Danish culture, finance, industry, and government conclude this very instructive volume. The authors declare that the man who more than all others created the new era of Danish literature is Georg Brandes. They select three names as representative of the most important scientific work recently accomplished in Denmark, viz. N. R. Finsen, who discovered the utility of the violet rays for killing the malignant bacteria of *lupus*, and who received in 1903 the Nobel prize for medicine; Valdemar Poulsen, the inventor of the arc and continuous-wave system of radio-telegraphy; and Ivar Knudsen, whose firm bought the Diesel patents in 1897, and were the builders of the first motor-driven liner, the *Selandia*, for the East Asiatic Co. of Copenhagen in 1911.

Germany at a Glance: Aid to Map Reading. London: William Clowes and Son, 1915. Price 1s. 6d. net.

The title of this booklet seems to have been altered at a late stage of preparation, for while the cover bears that given above, the title-page reads, "Everybody's Aid to the Map Reading of Central Europe, compiled with special regard to Germany." But the page headings follow the outer cover, and it is with something of a shock that one finds under the heading "Germany at a Glance" the words "Towns on the Rhone—Sitten, Genf, Lyons, Avingnon" (*sic*), while under the same heading Belgrade and Silistria are given as towns on the Danube. The reader is at first apt to wonder whether he has been sleeping, and Germany has annexed unawares the greater part of Europe. We cannot but regard the fact that, throughout the greater part of the book, there is no indication of the country within which the towns, rivers, mountains, etc., mentioned lie as a defect. Further there are many minor inconsistencies both as regards what is included and what is omitted. Thus the Canal du Midi is mentioned but the river Garonne finds no place under rivers. The Aar, Reuss and Limmat are honoured with the largest capitals used, though it is difficult to see what the importance of the last can be to those for whom the book is intended, and the very important Meuse and Moselle are in small type. The Burgundy Canal occurs in a German form, and the fact that the Kaiser Wilhelm Kanal is more familiar to us as the Kiel Canal is not mentioned. The Aisne also finds no place among the feeders of the Seine, though one would suppose it to be of more strategic importance than the Limmat. It is perhaps unreasonable to complain of the frequent misspelling of place names, for the proof reading must have been heavy, but the index might have been improved. The pamphlet will doubtless prove of use to those who wish to get up rapidly from maps the chief geographical names used in the region treated.

Belgium and Germany: Texts and Documents. Preceded by a Foreword. By HENRI DAVIGNON. London: Thomas Nelson and Sons. Price 6d.

We cannot review here this terrible indictment of the actions of German troops in Belgium in August 1914, which is accompanied by photographic reproductions of documents and by numerous other photographs. It may be sufficient to say that if there are any who feel their resolution slacken they will find here material to stiffen it anew. Amid the pages of sickening horrors, we find one devoted without comment to extracts from the famous manifesto by ninety-three German savants, artists and professors. One of these extracts contains the statement, made with that strange fatuity which has appeared so often in German war documents, that "our war staff . . . knows nothing of undisciplined cruelty," and the text supplies a commentary by showing how discipline can be employed to root out all traces of humanity in a docile race.

L'Alliance Balkanique. Par IV.-E. GUÉCHOFF. Paris: Hachette et Cie, 1915. Price 3 fr. 50.

This book, published before the entrance of Bulgaria into the great war, is of much topical interest, though this interest is largely political, and not geographical. M. Guéchoff was Bulgarian Prime Minister during the fateful period 1912-13, had much to do with the founding of the Balkan Alliance, and resigned on May 17/30, 1913, one month before the outbreak of the Second Balkan War. The object of his book is given in the preface as the presentation, from the Bulgarian standpoint, of the events which led up to the formation of the Alliance, and of those which brought about its rupture, in order to show that the Bulgarian people had little or no

responsibility in bringing about that rupture. The book is thus written definitely from a party standpoint, and is incomplete as a full history of events. Further, it is arranged in a somewhat confused fashion, perhaps designedly so, and must be taken only for what it is, the *apologia* of M. Guéchoff and his party. But it is full of interest for the political historian, and the geographer who would form just views on the Balkan tangle cannot afford to neglect it. As of special interest we may note the map showing the Bulgarian view of the territorial settlement contained in the secret treaty (cf. p. 647), and also the text of that treaty, which is given in full in an appendix. It is not without pathetic interest to note that the treaty was to run till 1920, and that Bulgaria definitely engaged to assist Serbia in the event of Austria-Hungary making an attack upon her. Conditions indeed change rapidly in this far-off corner of Europe!

BOOKS RECEIVED.

With the Russian Army: Being the Experiences of a National Guardsman. By ROBERT R. M'CORMACK. With Maps, Charts, and 24 full page Illustrations. Crown 8vo. Pp. xiv + 306. Price 6s. net. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1915.

A History of Babylon, from the Foundation of the Monarchy to the Persian Conquest. By LEONARD W. KING, Litt.D., F.S.A. With Maps, Plans, and Illustrations. Medium 8vo. Pp. xxiii + 340. Price 18s. net. London: Chatto and Windus, 1915.

Studies on the Material Culture of the Eskimo in West Greenland. By MORTEN P. PORSILD. Imperial 8vo. Pp. 135. Copenhagen: Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri, 1915.

Russia of To-Day. By JOHN FOSTER FRASER. With 44 Plates from Photographs. Crown 8vo. Pp. viii + 296. Price 6s. London: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1915.

Java, Past and Present: A Description of the most Beautiful Country in the World. Its Ancient History, People, Antiquities, and Products. By DONALD MACLAINE CAMPBELL, late British Consul of the Island. With a Map and many Illustrations. In 2 Vols. Medium 8vo. Pp. Vol. I. xx + 656; Vol. II. x + 579. Price 2 vols. 36s. net. London: William Heinemann, 1915.

The Civilisation of the Ancient Egyptians. By A. BOTHWELL GOSSE. Small Royal. Pp. viii + 164. Price 5s. net. Edinburgh: T. C. and E. C. Jack, 1915.

North America during the Eighteenth Century: a Geographical History. By T. CROCKETT, M.A. Edin., and B. C. WALLIS, B.Sc. (Econ.) Lond. Demy 8vo. Pp. viii + 116. Price 3s. net. Cambridge: University Press, 1915.

Between Two Lines. By BOYD CABLE. Crown 8vo. Pp. x + 272. Price 5s. net. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1915.

Day by Day with the Russian. By BERNARD PARES. With Maps. Demy 8vo. Pp. xii + 287. Price 7s. 6d. net. London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1915.

A Hilltop on the Marne. By MILDRED ALDRICH. Crown 8vo. Pp. 159. Price 4s. 6d. net. London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1915.

Sport, Travel and Adventure. Edited by H. G. LEWIS. With 58 Illustrations. Demy 8vo. Pp. 352. Price 10s. 6d. net. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1915.

Cities in Evolution: an Introduction to the Town Planning Movement and the Study of Civics. By PATRICK GEDDES. With 59 Illustrations. Demy 8vo. Pp. xv + 409. Price 7s. 6d. net. London: Williams and Norgate, 1915.