

WILEY



Review

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Telegraphy, Aeronautics and War.— Sir Charles Bright, F.R.S.E. London : Constable. 1918. 16s.

At the moment of reading this book some of its interest has passed : the long introduction and the final chapter contain much that bears not at all upon the subjects announced in the title—we chance, for example, on an objection to the extravagance of keeping Pekinese dogs—and show evidence of being written under the stress of war, dealing as they do with such matters as temporary shortcomings of administrators and defects (whether temporary or otherwise) in the character of the enemy. Apart from this, a number of addresses, papers, and memoranda are gathered together here upon the topics which the writer has made his own—inter-imperial telegraphy, cable working, the relative value of cable telegraphy and wireless, and the like. As to the last, the author, broadly speaking, favours the cable, which no doubt justifies the omission of wireless stations from a map entitled “The World’s Telegraphic System,” though this omission may surprise the general reader. A second section of the book deals with aeroplanes and aircraft engines, and with air administration. In such a collection of papers a measure of repetition is unavoidable, and the book, fairly indexed, is one rather convenient for reference than consecutively readable.

THE MONTHLY RECORD

THE SOCIETY

Medals and Awards, 1920.

His Majesty the King has approved the award of the Royal Medals as follows :

The Founder’s Medal to Mr. H. St. John B. Philby, C.I.E., for his two journeys in South-Central Arabia, 1917 and 1918.

The Patron’s Medal to Prof. Jovan Cvijić, Rector of the University of Belgrade, for distinguished studies of the geography of the Balkan Peninsula.

The Council has awarded The Victoria Medal to Lieut.-Colonel H. S. L. Winterbotham, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., for his exceptional services to the country in the initiation and development of scientific methods of artillery survey, and the production of high-class maps of inaccessible areas.

The Murchison Grant to Miss Czaplicka, for her ethnographical and geographical work in Northern Siberia.

The Cuthbert Peek Grant to Mr. A. W. Pearson Chinnery, to assist him in continuing his work in the unexplored parts of New Guinea.

The Back Grant to Mr. J. M. Wordie, for his scientific work on the Antarctic Expedition of 1914–1917.

The Gill Memorial to Reginald Farrer, for his journeys on the Chinese borders of Tibet.

EUROPE

A Lady’s Crossing of the Central Desert of Iceland.

MRS. H. W. Bannon sends us the following account of a journey made by her some years ago across the central desert of Iceland : “It was early in August 1903, my third summer in Iceland, that I decided to attempt crossing