Review

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(members of the Association) who either "manufacture or factor" such instruments; and of inviting the confidence and support of "all who are interested in promoting and maintaining "the supremacy of the British Optical Instruments."

We regret that this laudable object is but imperfectly attained in the work now issued. Examining at random the definitions of survey instruments we find many wrong: *e.g.* In the "'plain' theodolite the telescope moves through an arc of about 45° upwards or downwards from the horizontal plane"; "Anallatic telescope . . . fitted with an additional lens in the focal plane of the object-glass"; "Dumpy level . . . in which the telescope is fixed"; or "Y level . . . readily reversed so as to eliminate errors due to the instrument not being set truly level." Others are but indifferent definitions, when not actually wrong: *e.g.* "Artificial horizon—an instrument used to give the true horizontal level . . ."; "Tacheometer: a transit theodolite having a distance-reading device in the telescope"; "Heliostat: an instrument consisting of an adjustable mirror or reflector worked in connection with a combination of telescopes, used in trigonometrical surveys: with it, triangles with sides over 100 miles in length can be measured"; or "Chronograph—a time indicator. Astronomical intervals are noted by pressing a key, which makes one dot or puncture on a travelling strip of paper at the commencement and another at the end of the observation." Included in the Dictionary are the Nocturnal (wrongly described), the Back Staff, the Octant, the Mural Circle, the Astrometeoroscope (which has nothing to do with astronomy), and the Astrodicticum, "by means of which many persons are able to view the same star at the same time"; but there is no mention of the Prismatic Astrolabe, nor of the Zeiss-pattern Level, nor of a geodetic pendulum later than Kater's, nor of the Zenith Telescope, nor even of the Micrometer Theodolite (except in an illustration). The picture of the ordinary "transit" theodolite shows the level on the telescope instead of on the vernier frame. The pantograph shown is not suspended; the map measurer has no counter; no base apparatus is described or illustrated; there is no mention of the Indian pattern clinometer. To compensate for these deficiencies there are prefixed to the Dictionary an article on Navigating Instruments dealing with the fore-staff and back-staff, etc.; an advertisement of the Royal Meteorological Society; an account of British optical glass of some interest; and a long historical description of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

Geographers are profoundly interested in the future of British instrument-making. It will appear to them deplorable that an Association including some of the principal firms in this country, claiming "to give its supporters a service in brains and goods that has never before been available," should at this critical time produce a book with so low a standard of education and of accuracy.

A. R. H.

GENERAL

The Diary of a Yeomanry M.O.— Captain O. Teichman, D.S.O., M.S.
London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1921. *Illustrations and Sketch-maps.*
12s. 6d. net.

This medical officer, who had the good fortune to serve on a variety of fronts—Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, and Italy—here gives us his recorded observations written day by day. Though written by an M.O. the writer shows himself to have been fully alive to all the events which were occurring around him. Some authors might have woven this material into a great book, but perhaps these jottings, written "often under considerable difficulties and on odd scraps of paper," will be of all the greater interest to those who took part in the events

and the more convincing to those who have followed them only in official or semi-official accounts. The "Sinai Desert" and the "Palestine" campaigns fill most of the book, but the short chapter on some of the fighting on the Piave records perhaps the least known incident in the story. "The great tragedy of the first battle of Gaza" is described as a "ghastly fiasco"—it could seem little else to one who took part in it—and the second battle was an even more complete failure. The first advance across the Jordan in summer fully described here is also dubbed a "fiasco," but such a verdict requires revision in view of the way this temporary failure—a failure due largely to the Arabs' want of faith—eventually became a link in the chain of events leading up to General Allenby's final triumph.

Not every one will sympathize with the account given of British officers rifling tombs at Abu Shusheh (here miscalled Abu Shushar). During these irregular proceedings "a little French Jew made his appearance during the afternoon and asked if he also had permission to excavate. Naturally this was refused, and he appeared the next day with a long rigmarole about his being the agent of some colonization society to whom the land belonged. Eventually he became so troublesome that we had to throw him down the hill."

It may be remarked that the "French Jew" was probably quite right, as this land does belong to a Jewish Colonization Society, having been especially acquired because of its archæological treasures. It was one of the first acts of the British authorities to issue orders against all unauthorized digging even by those to whom the land belonged. The diary continues, "A few days later our C.O. received an order from H.Q.L. of C. to stop any of his officers who might be carrying on excavations at Abu Shushar; however, we were able to find another locality, and continued our work for some weeks"!

The writer can have little conception how damaging to real archæological progress this kind of irregular work is; the results are practically valueless to those who do it, and are still worse in their effects upon the natives who have already done irreparable damage by this kind of thing, and can never be made law-abiding with such bad examples as this on the part of British officers.

E. W. G. M.

Terry's Short Cut to Spanish.— T. Philip Terry. Pp. 543. 17 × 12 cm. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1920. \$2.50.

This extremely useful book is no mere grammar of classical Castilian, of which there are many. It is a veritable *vade mecum* on all that the traveller, the merchant, or the English resident in any of the twenty-one countries where Spanish is the national tongue, finds needful for the acquirement of a practical, and especially colloquial, fluency in the language. It supplies, besides the orthodox material of a grammar, just those many bits of information and points of distinction for which the intelligent learner sighs, but which he fails to find elsewhere in print. It is particularly rich in "Americanismos" and in explanations of the differences heard in daily conversation between the Spaniard of Old Spain and his cousin of the New World. Part iii. of the volume is virtually, as the author observes, a separate book, which he modestly calls a "Pocket Interpreter for English-speaking travellers in Spanish-speaking countries." But it is much more than an interpreter, teeming as it does with useful—one had almost said indispensable—information on a hundred and twenty-six subjects not readily met with elsewhere in so compact yet comprehensive a form; and it may confidently be predicted that this will in future become the book of all others for the intending traveller in Spanish America to provide himself with, and study.

B. G. C.