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Practical surveying in schools

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füneral rites before the cremation of a Buddhist Phongy (monk) of some note in the district. We went a few miles down the Irāwadi in the Company's steamer to the place the Phwe was to be held, where the villagers of all ages and sexes, from both sides of the river, got up in their best silks, came in boats and on foot, bearing paper pagodas, and imitation elephants and buffaloes, worked by men inside. There was one huge white elephant (imitation). The imitation pagodas were carried along to the place of gathering by the bearers who executed a sort of wavy dance. As there were several English people present, both ladies and gentlemen, the little girls, all in their best silks, with their hair neatly plastered on their heads, came and performed a dance before us. It was wonderful the admirable time they kept and the solemnity of their little faces whilst they danced. After the girls danced, a number of men came and danced, but their dancing was rather monotonous. The ceremony was interesting on account of the crowds of gaily dressed Burmese seen to great advantage under a brilliant sun, with the great river flowing silently alongside. These were all apparently pure Burmese, there being few or no natives of other countries present.

On the voyage down to Prome, one of the old capitals of Burma, established 483 B.C., we observed a distinct broadening of the river. In some places it was half a mile wide, and during the rains of the monsoon it must be much wider. At Minhla, a large village on the right bank, we saw a group of five small pagodas. Below this point the country is better wooded, probably on account of the greater rainfall, as it comes more within the reach of the south-west monsoon.

Prome, though a very ancient capital of Burma, has few pagodas to show. It is noted as the point of departure by railway for Rangoon, and is a rising town of 30,000 inhabitants. The steamers of the Irāwadi Flotilla Company can here be taken to ascend the river to Mandalay, thus saving the long sail round from Rangoon through a comparatively flat and uninteresting country.

We were unable from want of time to visit the other ancient capitals of Burma, such as Thaton, Pegu, and Mergui, all in the southern part of Burma.

The commercial importance of Burma to Great Britain is very great. Her people will not long remain in ignorance, but will, as education advances, doubtless take their place as one of the great races of the East.

PRACTICAL SURVEYING IN SCHOOLS.

By FREDERICK MORT, M.A., B.Sc., F.G.S.

(*With Sketch Map.*)

THE importance of Geography as a school subject and the desirability of teaching it in a concrete, interesting and scientific way may now be admitted as established. Two of the main difficulties yet to be removed, however, are the beliefs, first, that many of the new methods are above

the heads of young pupils, and second, that the results obtained are not proportional to the additional skill and trouble demanded from the teacher. This Society may therefore be interested in seeing the actual result of a piece of outdoor mapping by boys averaging about thirteen and a half years of age. From beginning to end the work was done

Map of part of Kelvingrove Park. Surveyed by boys of average age 13½ years.

entirely by the boys themselves, and even the final drawing of the map for reproduction in this *Magazine* was carried out by my young friend and pupil, Master David Hunter, fourteen years of age.

The area chosen to be mapped was part of Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow. The apparatus used was the plane-table, the principle of which is generally well known, so that I shall give no description of it. The table was set up at the station marked A and the directions of all the

important points were sighted and drawn, including both ends of the bridges across the Kelvin, in order to determine the course of that river. The table was then shifted to station B, and the same points sighted again and therefore fixed. Station C was used as a correction for the points obtained at B and A, and also for some other points invisible either at B or A. The main points of the map were now determined, and it only remained to fill in details. Several copies of the map in its unfinished state were made and copies given to about half a dozen pairs of boys. Each pair was allotted a portion of the Park and had to draw in the roads and paths of that portion. The directions of the main roads and bridges were checked by another party using the prismatic compass. While one set of boys worked the plane-table, another went to the edge of the river and, using a simple form of sextant, determined its width. A copy of the finished map was then made and coloured by each boy, the river being coloured blue, the grass green, and the paths brown.

The interest taken by the pupils in this task was considerable, and for this alone I consider the value of the work was great. In addition, they replaced a vague idea of the park surroundings by a clear and accurate knowledge of several important geographical facts and methods, and this, moreover, was obtained by their own efforts. They were thrown to a large extent on their own resources; entirely so in the case of the pairs surveying the paths. The result I consider very creditable to the boys, and it shows that if once their interest is aroused and their hearty co-operation obtained, work of no mean value can be produced. It should be added that their training in the school (Allan Glen's) is largely in a scientific curriculum, and therefore the ability of the boys to handle a new piece of apparatus was probably greater than the average.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL.

At a Meeting of Council held on the 12th November 1907, the following ladies and gentlemen were elected "Teacher Associate" Members of the Society:—

Miss Sara Corner, M.A.	Miss H. Sh. Divorty.	Miss H. Picken.
Miss Margaret S. Ross.	Miss M. Somerville.	Miss Robertson.
William Duncan, F.E.I.S.	Miss M. E. Lippe, LL.A.	Miss E. Horne.
Miss A. T. Cowe, M.A.	Miss Agnes Robertson, M.A.	

At a Meeting of Council held on the 21st January, the under-mentioned ladies and gentlemen were elected Members of the Society:—

Prof. J. G. MacGregor, LL.D.	Robert Jamieson.	W. W. Ferguson.
James Alexander.	Miss Imlach.	James G. Porter.
Miss J. Bell.	Andrew Watt, M.A., Sec.	David M'Nally.
Miss M. T. Blair.	Scot. Met. Soc.	Miss Usher.