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Review: Water in Landscapes

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Συρία; the history of Phœnicia (considered as a Syrian coast region); the beginnings of Arabic influence in Syria through the Idumæans; the Nabathean kingdom in Edom; the Jews immediately before and after Nehemiah; the Samaritan schism; the problem of Scythopolis; the province-divisions formed by Seleukus Nikator; the boundaries of Syria and Egypt under the Seleukids and Ptolemies; the Hellenizing policy pursued by Alexander's successors in Syria by means of city-foundations; the history of the Jewish people after Alexander; the monarchy of Hyrkanus, Aristobulus, and Alexander Jannæus; and the establishment of the Roman province of Judæa; form the chief divisions of a most interesting and valuable monograph.

It is to be hoped that Dr. Sieglin's plan of publishing the most important of the ancient historico-geographical texts, as well as a series of studies upon the chief problems of ancient and of early mediæval geography and geographical history, will meet with cordial support. Nothing more useful could well be imagined than the full list of his 'Quellen und Forschungen zur alten Geschichte und Geographie.' Up to the present, besides the two we have noticed here, four other essays have appeared, respectively devoted to old Persian history, to the history of the first discovery and exploration of Britain, to the history and topography of the Austrian lands under the Romans, and to the island of Eubœa. More than twenty other similar studies are now ready, or nearly so, and we trust that this number may be at least doubled.

GENERAL.

WATER IN LANDSCAPES.

'Light and Water.' By Sir Montagu Pollock, Bart. London: George Bell. 1903. Pp. xii., 115.

This work is explained in the sub-title as 'A Study of Reflexion and Colour in River, Lake, and Sea.' The proper reflection (to follow the convention of most printers' chapels) of objects in water is frequently missed, as the author points out, even by great artists. Naturally, it follows a fixed series of laws. In this book are shown very clearly by diagrams the precise effect; observed in still water from different elevations, and then the various orders of reflection given by various forms of ripple, from the hurrying waves thrown up by a brisk breeze, to the slow oily swell which stands next to a condition of absolute calm. The different standard forms are shown in beautiful photographs; in one appears the effect of flattened rings familiar on a slow-moving, leaden surface of water; in others, the difference between the narrow sun-streak, with the sun low and the sea calm, and the wide streak, with the sun high and water rough, and so on—a series as excellently selected as reproduced. Even when the author passes from the forms of reflection to colour, the half-tone reproductions are of value in showing differences of shade. In a note on the colour of water, setting forth the selective absorption theory as generally preferred to that of selective reflection, the author quotes a long and interesting dialogue, "substantially in accordance with modern ideas," from a rare anonymous work of Sir Humphrey Davy, 'Salmonia, or Days of Fly-fishing,' published in 1828.

O. J. R. H.

COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

'Handbook of Commercial Geography.' By G. G. Chisholm. 4th Corrected Edition. London: Longmans. 1903.

A general description of a book well known to every student of economic geography is unnecessary; it is sufficient to note that in the main design and