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RECENT GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

By HUGH ROBERT MILL, D.Sc.

THE problem of keeping a systematic account of each literary flake in the ever-thickening snowfall of geographical memoirs becomes more puzzling every year. Attempts to solve it, either completely or partially, are made by most of the great geographical societies of Europe, and by some of the leading journals. Usually the attempt takes the form of a list of the works received by the society during the preceding month, quarter, or year. This may be a mere record of titles without arrangement or comment, or it may consist of a series of somewhat lengthy reviews of the works in question. The *Geographical Journal* has aimed at two things in dealing with the accessions to the library of the Royal Geographical Society: first, to present a classified list of every geographical contribution received, with only the briefest comments; and, second, to give a special notice in the body of the *Journal* of the more important or more interesting works.

The advantage of separating reviews and bibliographical notices mainly affects the student, to whom a clearly arranged and compact list of the most recent publications is a matter of high importance. The book-notices in this *Journal* are really instalments of two catalogues, one arranged according to subjects, the other according to the names of authors. The alphabetical order of the subject-entries, which prevails under each of the main divisions, is merely for the convenience of the printer. In a bibliography published monthly it is obvious that the space occupied should vary according to the demand upon it, and this being sometimes impossible without sacrificing the advantages of other equally important parts of the publication, various difficulties and inconveniences arise. *Petermann's Mitteilungen* gets over these difficulties by paging the critical bibliography separately from the general text, and giving the main headings in definite order in due succession, perhaps only two or three of them appearing in a single number. This arrangement is very satisfactory, especially when the volume is completed and supplied with the admirable alphabetical and subject-indexes which are provided. A somewhat similar method is employed, though the intervals of publication are longer, in Wagner's *Geographische Jahrbuch*, which contains special bibliographies of various departments of geography embracing the publications of several years.

The special purpose of this article is to draw attention to two recently published efforts to improve the recording of current geographical publications, one German, the other French.

For many years the Berlin Geographical Society issued an annual supplement to its *Zeitschrift*, containing a list of the publications of the previous year. From 1853 to 1887 this was done by the society's Librarian, Dr. Koner, and after his death it was continued by various

hands until 1890, when the publication stopped. The society has, however, resolved to resume and continue the work in a more systematic and complete manner than before, and for this purpose it has secured the assistance of Herr Otto Baschin, of the Prussian Meteorological Institute. The first instalment of the new work is now before us,* and it will quickly be brought up to date by the issue of volumes for 1893 and 1894. An attempt is made to give a complete catalogue of geographical publications in all languages for the period of 1891-92, and it is remarkably successful. The term "geography" is interpreted liberally, Herr Baschin preferring to run the risk of giving too much rather than too little. Books, maps, and articles in journals are all entered under certain strictly defined divisions, the ultimate arrangement being alphabetical according to the authors' names, or in anonymous works according to some descriptive word apparently chosen arbitrarily.

The classification adopted is first into A, General, and B, Special Geography; the latter is, of course, the more voluminous. General Geography is subdivided into eight groups: (1) Bibliography; (2) Methodology and Education; (3) General Description, including dictionaries, gazetteers, and handbooks; (4) Historical Geography in eight minor divisions, which include Biography and Terminology; (5) Mathematical and General Physical Geography in eight minor divisions—General, Cosmology, Mathematical Geography and Cartography, Geophysics, Climatology, Oceanology, Mountain Study, and Land Waters; all these are subdivided; (6) Biological Geography; (7) Anthro-geography; and (8) Instructions for Travellers.

In this scheme commercial geography comes under Anthro-geography. The arrangement is throughout scientific; only we should be inclined to separate Mathematical from Physical Geography, treating them as two main heads, and to class "Globes, Atlases, and Maps of the Earth" along with Geographical Dictionaries and Manuals in Group A, instead of following Herr Baschin and giving them the first place under Special Geography.

Special Geography has ten great divisions: (1) Globes, etc.; (2) Descriptions of large parts of the Earth, *e.g.* Empires and Colonial Possessions taken as wholes; (3) Europe; (4) Asia; (5) Africa; (6) Australia and New Guinea; (7) Polynesia; (8) America; (9) Polar Regions; and (10) Seas. Each continent is first treated by itself under the heads: (*a*) Chorography and Travels, (*b*) Geodesy, (*c*) Physical Geography, (*d*) Biological Geography, (*e*) Anthro-geography, (*f*) Historical Geography, (*g*) Guide-books, (*h*) Maps. Each country is then taken separately under the same heads, the ultimate classification being alphabetical by authors' names.

* 'Bibliotheca Geographica. . . Bearbeitet von Otto Baschin unter Mitwirkung von Dr. Ernst Wagner. Band 1, Jahrgang 1891 und 1892. Berlin: W. H. Kuhl, 1895.

The work has been done systematically and thoroughly, and the *Bibliotheca Geographica* promises to become the one indispensable record which the practical geographer must always have at hand. The present volume contains nearly 14,000 entries. It would be too much for human power to make it free of error; the misprints we have noted are, however, of a trifling kind. Titles from slavonic languages are given in German or French translation, but for the rest each title is an exact transcript. When a number of volumes of this Bibliography has been published, the labour of referring to them will become great, and we would suggest that arrangements might be made through the Berlin Society by which copies of the work might be supplied in sheets, printed on one side only, to those societies or libraries where the method of card-catalogues is in use. If this were done for each year's accessions to literature, the entries could readily be cut up and rearranged so that a single reference would answer the common questions as to which is the latest or the most important book on a given subject. When the Committee on International Geographical Bibliography, appointed at the Sixth International Geographical Congress, reports at Berlin in 1899, they will probably give an opinion as to how far the volumes of the *Bibliotheca Geographica* are likely to fulfil the conditions demanded. We do not think that the arrangement adopted is perfectly adapted for a bibliography dealing with many years of literature; but for the accessions of a single year it is probably the best that could be found, and the geographers of the world are laid under a permanent debt to the Berlin Society.

The Bibliography of Geography for 1894 recently published by the *Annales de Géographie*, a journal which has maintained a uniformly high standard of scientific excellence since its foundation, may be compared and contrasted with the larger German work. It consists of 1590 entries, perhaps one-quarter of the geographical publications of the year, calculated on Herr Baschin's system of inclusion; but these are carefully selected, and each title is followed by an explanatory or critical note. MM. Vidal de la Blache, Gallois, and De Margerie direct the work,* and there are thirty-nine contributors, the work being in large degree international.

Like the *Bibliotheca*, the larger divisions are grouped according to subject, the ultimate order being alphabetical; the main cleavage is naturally into General and Regional or Special. The General part is treated under four main heads: (1) Historical, in two subdivisions. (2) Mathematical. (3) Physical Geography, in six minor divisions—Geology and Orography, Climatology, Botanical Geography, Zoological Geography, Oceanography, Rivers and Lakes. (4) Political Geography, comprising four sub-heads—(a) Races, States, and Nations;

* *Annales de Géographie—Bibliographie de l'Année*, 1894. Pp. 294. Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1895.

(b) Movement of Population and Colonization ; (c) Products and Ways of Communication ; (d) Educational and General.

The Regional part is divided into Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa, America, and Polar Regions, each subdivided according to countries or groups.

The classification is not so minute as that in the German work, and some of the divisions are consequently vaguer ; but the much smaller number of entries dealt with prevents this from giving rise to any real difficulty, the object of such classification being to break up the mass of references into a number of blocks readily arranged for reference, and each small enough to present its contents at a glance.

It is, perhaps, necessary to point out the difference between a systematic Bibliography aiming at the inclusion of every publication upon a given subject, and the incomplete record which a list of accessions to a library inevitably presents. Yet, if arrangements could be made for effective co-operation, a single complete list compiled by one central authority, with numbered references, would form a catalogue for all ; each individual library would only require to print an index showing the numbers corresponding to the works contained in it.

THE LAND OF THE BATAKS.*

By Baron ANATOLE VON HÜGEL.

A NEW book which gives the results of actual research in any of the less-known regions of the Malay Archipelago is always welcome, and the pleasantly written volume under consideration is no exception to this rule.

Baron von Brenner divides his book into three sections. In the first, we make acquaintance with the life of the Dutch planter, the Chinese labour employed on the plantations, and with the cultivation and preparation of the tobacco in Deli, a province in the north-east of Sumatra. In the second, the author gives, in journal form, a detailed account of his month's visit to the Batak highlands. Accompanied by a Dutch assistant, two native guides, and a number of carriers, Von Brenner left Bekalla (Deli) on March 19, 1887, and after a three days' march reached the tableland, the coast mountain range being crossed by the twelfth Kota Pass, a steep pinch near the active volcano of Si Bajak. For eleven days he travelled among the friendly Karo tribe. From the extinct crater, Tandok Benua (5970 feet), a magnificent view of the lake of Toba and of the surrounding country was obtained. On April 14, the expedition embarked in a large native canoe from Negori, a village of the Timor tribe, on the north shore of the lake, for Balige,

* 'Besuch bei den Kannibalen Sumatras. Erste Durchquerung der unabhängigen Batak-Lande.' By Joachim Freiherr von Brenner. Würzburg: Leo Woerl. 1894. Large 8vo, pp. 388. With 2 maps, 7 plates (6 coloured), and over 100 engravings.