Review

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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Aug., 1915), p. 153

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1780184>

Accessed: 20-06-2016 15:26 UTC

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Too many text-books are written in such a way that the student receives an unfortunate bias towards the opinions favoured by the respective authors. The extent to which hypothesis is presented as fact in modern text-books is not generally realized. Hence it is refreshing to find Mr. Lake adopting the principle of discriminating carefully between fact and theory. Alternative explanations are given without prejudice and the limitations of hypotheses are frequently remarked. His treatment of pressure and weather, of the tetrahedral hypothesis, of the continental shelf, of hanging valleys, and of boulder clay may be quoted as examples of his method. The encouragement thus given to students to test theory by fact is one of the most hopeful signs in modern teaching.

For the most part Mr. Lake has adopted the time-honoured subdivision of his subject. The atmosphere and the ocean are described from the point of view of constitution and properties, and the land from the point of view of processes. Interesting chapters are devoted to the discussion of the geographical distribution of atmospheric temperature and pressure, of ocean currents, and of superficial topography. Here and there old-fashioned prejudices may be traced. It is hard to understand, for example, why the coastal evidences of elevation and of subsidence should be termed geological rather than geographical. The formation of a valley is still loosely ascribed to the river it contains, although it is clearly explained that its characteristic form may be due to quite other agents. These, however, are small points in no way detracting from the value of the work itself, which is a notable addition to the number of standard text-books, and one which may be confidently recommended for the use of students.

J. D. F.

PETROLEUM.

'Petroleum: a treatise on the geographical distribution and geological occurrence of Petroleum and Natural Gas,' etc., etc. By Sir Boverton Redwood. 3rd edit. 3 vols. London: C. Griffin & Co. 1913. *Maps and Illustrations.* 50s. net.

A new edition of this standard work has been published.* It is accompanied by several new maps and plans, notably those of South Mexico and Trinidad. Information on the various fields has been brought more up to date, and the additional information necessitates the publication of the work in three volumes instead of two as formerly. There has been little added on the vexed question of the origin of petroleum. The rival theories of inorganic, vegetable, and animal origin are discussed and are summed up in the statement: "Approximation of product is consistent with wide variation of the generating factors." There are many additions in the section devoted to pipe lines, and a list of tank steamers and tank sailing vessels, as well as vessels fitted for burning oil fuel, has been brought up to date of publication. An index has been added that will facilitate reference to the enormous amount of information contained in this work, which can be looked upon as the standard work on petroleum and the allied shale industry.

H. T. B.

* For review of the second edition, see *Journal*, vol. 29, p. 565.