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Review: Evolution of Sands

Author(s): Vaughan Cornish

Review by: Vaughan Cornish

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MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

EVOLUTION OF SANDS.

'L'Evolution Comparée des Sables.' By Jules Girard. Rudeval, Paris. 1903.

The subject is divided into four parts, Erosion, Sub-aërial denudation, Sand-dunes, and Coastal changes. The work extends to 121 pages of largest octavo, and is illustrated by 12 full-page plates, three of which are reproductions of photographs, the remainder being maps. There are also 40 smaller figures. The book is a careful compilation from original sources, the references in the text numbering more than 120. It is in the author's treatment of desert sand-dunes that English readers are most likely to find new material, for he has drawn largely upon the excellent records of M. G. Rolland, and other French explorers of the Sahara, which have perhaps attracted less attention in this country than they deserve. A good summary is given of the observations upon the relation of desert sand-dunes to the conservation of moisture, as well as of the effect of moisture in preserving the sand-dunes. The almost stationary character of the greater sand-dunes of the Sahara, which is in such striking contrast to the extreme mobility of the small and *newly formed* sand-dunes, is intimately related to this power of absorbing and retaining moisture. The author says of the great dunes, "Les grandes dunes de l'Erg ne sont mobiles que dans certains cas; suivant la nature du sable, elles offrent une plus ou moins grande stabilité. Dans un ouragan, elles *fument*, au sommet principalement. Cependant, la consequence de la tourmente est insensible, les sables ne sont que superficiellement remués. . ."

VAUGHAN CORNISH.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

THE SOCIETY.

The Society and the Eighth International Geographical Congress.—The following have been named by the Council to represent the Society at the approaching meeting of the International Congress: Colonel G. E. Church, Prof. E. J. Garwood, Major Gibbons, Sir Thomas Holdich, Sir Harry Johnston, Dr. Keltie, Mr. Kennelly, Dr. H. R. Mill, Mr. H. W. Trinder, and Colonel C. M. Watson. Particulars as to the programme of the Congress were given in the March number of the *Journal* (p. 393).

EUROPE.

Physical History of the Teign Valley.—This was the subject of a paper read before the Geological Society on March 9 last by Mr. A. J. Jukes-Brown, who pointed out that the Teign valley is noteworthy as consisting of parts of two transverse valleys linked by a longitudinal one, and endeavoured to trace the cause of this circumstance in the history of its development. The beginning of this he dates back to Oligocene times, when the Eocene strata previously deposited over all the central parts of Devon, and banked up against the northern, eastern, and southern sides of Dartmoor, received a general easterly slope from the post-Eocene movement of elevation. The upper Teign valley has a direction consistent with this easterly slope as far as Clifford Bridge, and below this would seem to have continued its easterly course in Oligocene times, instead of turning southward as

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