Review

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the headings of descriptive, transition, and systematic and argumentative geography, is profoundly interesting. On regional and economic geography his outlook (with the exception indicated above) is broad; on the relations of geography and history it is perhaps less so. His views as regards quantitative geography are well known to readers of this *Journal*: whether or not one may think they are pushed rather too far in this book, they demand close attention. It is hardly necessary to add that the use of maps and the globe, the methods of field-work, and the practices of teaching in the various departments of geography, are all expertly treated in this most interesting volume.

O. J. R. H.

MAP READING.

'Map Reading: A Self-instructional Manual.' By Captain L. Norcock, R.M.L.I., and Captain F. S. Wilson, R.M.L.I. London: Sifton, Praed & Co. 1915. Price 4s. 6d. net.

At the present time there must be a large demand for instruction in map-reading, and any work which is designed for self-instruction should receive careful consideration. The preface to this work explains that it is divided into two parts, the first dealing with methods and the second consisting of selected questions with full solutions.

It may be doubted whether the first part is sufficiently complete. Like the second, it consists rather of examples than of any explanation of general principles or methods. It is written throughout with an eye to the examination. For example, on the first page and the fifth line we read: "Diagonal scales: These are seldom set in examination papers. . . ." And although it would be a most useful book in the hands of a good instructor, it is more doubtful whether it is well designed to take his place; while some supervision in its use is the more necessary inasmuch as it contains a number of mistakes which might even have grave consequences.

Its authors follow the generality of books on military topography in stating that the edges of Ordnance Survey sheets may be taken as true north and south, whereas it is well known that they may deviate as much as 4° from true meridian. The authors perpetuate the undesirable definition of an angle as equivalent to a bearing; they continue to speak of spot-levels instead of spot-heights. They work problems of intervisibility without mentioning the fact that in ordinary undulating country the trees are frequently the decisive factor. They define "setting a map" as "placing it on the ground," which is a bad habit a pupil should be warned against rather than be encouraged in. But in addition to these usual defects, the authors make several unusual mistakes. They give as an example of a bench mark the usual sign for a "trig-point." They say that the true bearing of the sun at noon is 180° without specifying that local apparent noon is meant, or explaining how it is to be found. They say that the bearing of the Pole Star is always 360° . Worse still, on page 55 they answer the question, "What is the approximate bearing of the sun in England at 3 p.m. with a compass variation of 15° west?" by the following process: "The bearing on the sun at noon is 180° , and it moves at 15° per hour; hence at 3 p.m. its true bearing is 225° ." This is an almost incredible error.

The authors are not happy in their arithmetic. In working question 8 on page 41, and in many other places, they use 1 in 60 as the equivalent of 1° , and immediately afterwards 1 foot in 19.1 yards. In the example worked on page 53 they start with data to one significant figure, and in a few lines arrive at the result that "in five minutes the torpedo-boat travels 1018.67 yards."

The self-instructed are thus confirmed in one of the most common faults—waste of time in arithmetic.

These various defects make the book a dangerous guide to the uninstructed; but they do not appreciably diminish its value as an exercise book for those under good instruction; and it is to be hoped that for this purpose it may be widely used, and the enterprise of its authors suitably rewarded.

AN ILLUSTRATED GEOGRAPHY.

'*Illustrierte Länderkunde.*' By Ewald Banse and others. Brunswick, etc.: G. Westermann. 1914. *Map and Illustrations.*

The purpose of the authors has been to produce an authoritative compendium of modern geography of moderate size and reasonable price. The usual subdivision of the Earth's surface into continents has been discarded in favour of a subdivision into what might be termed cultural regions, which to the authors is the only true method of viewing the globe. The regional divisions adopted are the Orient (Asiatic and African), Europe (excluding Russia), Greater Siberia (including Russia and Northern Asia), Mongolia or Highland Asia, Eastern Asia, India (or southern Asia), Greater Australia, Nigritia (or African south of the Sahara), East South America, Andina, Central America, Cordillera, America (east of the Rockies), Arctis, and Antaretis. These major regions are then subdivided into minor climatic and topographical regions, which are discussed and compared from the point of view of the effect of varying natural conditions upon the general cultural type. The plan of the work is discussed in the introduction and the principles there enumerated are consistently followed throughout the various sections. The limited size of the volume has necessitated careful selection of the facts presented for consideration. Each section, however, is written by a specialist, and the result is a highly interesting and suggestive, as well as well-illustrated, volume, which may be commended to the careful attention of anthropogeographers.

J. D. F.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

Distribution of Population in Sardinia.—An interesting study of the distribution of population in the island of Sardinia is contributed by G. Anfossi to the *Bollettino* of the Italian Geographical Society, 1915, Nos. 2 and 3 (also in abridged form in *La Geografia*, May–June, 1915). Besides presenting the data in tabular form the article is well provided with sketch-maps and diagrams showing the distribution of inhabited centres, the distribution of density in 1861 and 1911, the distribution of variation in density (chiefly increase) during the half-century, the distribution by altitude, and so on. The increase for the whole island reaches the high value of 45 per cent. during the half-century—greater than that for Italy as a whole (39 per cent.). The distribution of the increase is rather striking, most of the north and east showing over 50 per cent., and a considerable area in the extreme north-east over 100 per cent. (reached also over limited areas in the south and south-west). Mining development is no doubt largely responsible for the increase in the Iglesiente. Generally speaking the greatest increase is in the parts that were most sparsely populated in 1861, and this indicates a considerable shifting of population. The island has tended towards a more equal distribution of