Review

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official and unofficial publications, and a brief summary of events, in the introductory pages, together, of course, with appropriate references under the headings of the various countries. There are also four coloured maps, one illustrating the ethnography of Central Europe (which possibly does not show clearly enough the crossings of various peoples in the East Central lands), another the expansion of Prussia, a third the three partitions of Poland, and a fourth the world-territories of the various colonizing Powers—all maps which may well be found useful in connection with the war, though there will be opportunity to add others no less useful in future. Among countries not directly affected by the war, reference may be made to the section on China, which has “to a large extent been again re-written,” and has been distinctly improved, the text indicating tersely the principal administrative changes under the republic, and the tables having been rendered more compact and (by means of reduction to English measures) easier to use than formerly.

‘The World’s Cotton Crops.’ By John A. Todd, B.L. (London: A. & C. Black. 1915. Pp. xiii., 460. *Maps and Illustrations*. 10s. net.) The author, now Professor of Economics in University College, Nottingham, was formerly attached to the Khedivial School of Law at Cairo. The knowledge he then acquired of the conditions of the Egyptian cotton industry has been extended by a study of the subject in its world-wide aspects, and by a tour through the American cotton belt. The present book deals with the conditions of the production of cotton in each of the countries where it is grown on a commercial scale. There are also chapters on the cotton plant and the uses of cotton and cotton seed. A final chapter sums up the effects of the war. Numerous statistical tables and diagrams form a useful appendix. Another useful feature is a list of works of reference at the end of each chapter. There is a liberal supply of maps coloured to show cotton areas, and the whole work is a valuable compendium of well-arranged information on a subject of great importance in the study of economic geography.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

Language Boundaries in Europe and their Political Significance.—

The question of nationality is much to the fore at the present moment, and however great may be the difficulty of defining precisely what is meant by that ambiguous term, there can be no doubt of the important part played by language in any conception of nationality. Much has been done of late years to elucidate the complex linguistic boundaries in many parts of Europe and their fluctuations, but the literature is scattered, and we therefore welcome the attempt made by M. Leon Dominian in the June number of the *Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society, to bring together the main facts of the question and show the general conclusions to be drawn from them. A valuable feature is the series of carefully prepared special maps which illustrate the individual linguistic frontiers in detail, whilst in the text the writer treats of the geographical and historical influences which have brought about existing conditions. The immense political significance of such language questions is shown by the large proportion of the whole area of Europe which thus comes under review, no fewer than fifteen language frontiers or language areas being dealt with in succession. The writer’s

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