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Obituary

Sir Clements Markham K.C.B. F.R.S.

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Antillia were sent out by the Portuguese king himself ; and one of his nobles, about to set sail on a like venture, was granted Antillia "whether it be an island or part of a continental coast."

Such general convictions of course do not absolutely prove anything, but must always have some persuasive power ; but that the indications of the maps can stand for nothing real is quite unbelievable.

Nordenskjöld seems to have been right in declaring : "As the mention of this large island, the name of which was afterwards given to the Antilles, in the portulanos of the fourteenth century is probably owing to some vessel being storm-driven across the Atlantic (as according to Behaim happened to a Spanish vessel in 1414) those maps on which this island is marked must be reckoned among Americana." They are accordingly classified in his *Periplus* under the heading "Maps relating to the New World."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

LECTURES IN MARCH.

THE Rev. Walter Weston will deliver the concluding lecture for this session when he addresses the Aberdeen centre on the 21st March, and the Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow centres on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th respectively. The subject of his lecture will be "Exploration in the Northern Japanese Alps."

OBITUARY

SIR CLEMENTS MARKHAM, K.C.B., F.R.S.

By the lamented death of Sir Clements Markham we lose one who for many years took a leading part in geographical work in this country, whose work as an explorer carries us back almost to the time of Sir John Franklin's Arctic Expedition, and who will long be remembered as one of the great Presidents of the Royal Geographical Society.

Clements Robert Markham was born in Yorkshire in 1830. He joined the Royal Navy in 1844, retiring from that service in 1852. While still serving in the Royal Navy he took part in the Arctic Expedition of 1850-51 in search of Sir John Franklin. It was his experience with this expedition which no doubt stimulated his natural inclination for exploration and led him to devote his great ability and energy to the study of scientific geography. He possessed considerable literary talents and was the author of a number of valuable geographical works. His literary activity was not confined to geography, for he wrote some good biographies and other works.

After his retirement from the Royal Navy he carried out explora-

tions in Peru and the Eastern Andes. At this time cinchona was getting scarce and very costly owing to the wasteful way in which the Indians cut the bushes. Mr. Clements Markham and his companions collected a quantity of cinchona seed during their journeys in South America; this seed was planted in Ceylon and the Nilgherries, and thrived so well there that the supply of quinine became ample and cheap. It is difficult to exaggerate the value of this work. Mr. Clements Markham, however, did not confine himself to it but acquired during his travels an amount of geographical information which made him an authority on parts of South America.

From 1867 to 1877 Mr. Markham was in charge of the Geographical Department of the India Office, and in 1868 he took part as geographer in the Abyssinian Expedition. He became Hon. Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society in 1863 and held the post for twenty-five years. He was President of that Society from 1893 to 1905. No President of the Society, except Sir Roderick Murchison, had such a long, and few, if any, a more strenuous term of office. Clements Markham was for many years Secretary, and from 1890 to 1909 President, of the Hakluyt Society. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1873 and a K.C.B. in 1896. He was made Hon. Member of many foreign societies.

This bare recital of the work done, the offices held, and the honours received by Sir Clements Markham give but a faint idea of his personality and work. To those who knew him the outstanding features of his character were his enthusiasm for geographical exploration and science and his unquenchable energy. During his long and memorable tenure of the post of President of the Royal Geographical Society he devoted his great abilities and energy to the encouragement of exploration, to the fostering of scientific geography and to the improvement of geographical education. In these various branches great progress was made during his time.

He always took a keen interest in the exploration of South America and in geographical problems connected with that continent in which in his early days he had done such valuable work, but Arctic and Antarctic exploration held the first place in his affections, and he devoted himself heart and soul to encourage exploration of these regions.

It was largely due to his energy that the Arctic Expedition under Sir George Nares was fitted out in 1874, but it was to the National Antarctic Expedition under Lieut. R. F. Scott, subsequently promoted to Captain for his services on the expedition, that he devoted in greatest profusion his indomitable energy and his organising power, and with which his name is most intimately associated. The difficulties to be overcome in connection with the expedition were very great and would have damped the ardour of many men. It is not too much to say that but for his enthusiasm and energy the expedition would not have been nearly as complete as it was. The success of the expedition was largely due to Sir Clements' knowledge, experience, and organising power and to the judgment he showed in selecting Capt. R. F. Scott for the command.

Of late years, owing to increasing deafness and the infirmities of age, Sir Clements Markham was obliged to take a less active part in geo-

graphical work, and after 1912 his name disappeared from the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, on which he had in one capacity or another served for fifty years, but he never lost his interest and keenness in exploration and in everything connected with geography, and only a few months ago he prepared a valuable paper which only indisposition prevented him from reading personally to the Royal Geographical Society.

He will long be remembered as a great geographer, an authority on Arctic and Antarctic exploration, and one who did much to obtain for scientific geography a proper recognition in the country and to improve its teaching in our schools and universities. He was loved and revered by those who had the privilege of working with him, and those who knew him best appreciate most fully how much geography owes to him.

D. A. J.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

EUROPE.

Problems of the European War.—In a recently issued volume of the *Proceedings* of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow (XLVI.), there are a number of striking articles on various aspects of the Great War, and on the problems to which it has given rise. Thus Professor Dudley Medley discusses the Races of Europe, giving a very clear and concise account of the different nationalities, and of the various suggestions which have been made for post-bellum reconstruction. In this paper the different races of Austria-Hungary receive especially full treatment. In regard to one of the difficult questions involved it is interesting to note that Professor Medley agrees with M. Georges Bienaimé (cf. p. 95) in believing that a reconstructed Poland should have an outlet on the Baltic at the expense of Prussia. In another article Professor W. Smart discusses the Economic Dislocation of the War, here and in Germany. He emphasises the broad resemblance between the trade of Germany and that of this country, for Germany imports about £160,000,000 of food-stuffs in normal years; she also imports raw materials to the value of some £300,000,000, and exports some £300,000,000 of manufactured goods. On the basis of an analysis of our pre-war trade with Germany he comes to the conclusion that most of the materials we have hitherto drawn from Germany could be made here, and most of the finished goods hitherto imported could easily be dispensed with. Two other articles are chiefly historical in outlook, these being one on Pan-Germanism by Mr. Andrew Cowan and one on the Dual Alliance and the Triple Entente by Professor Robert Rait. The volume contains a number of other interesting articles in addition.

AFRICA.

South-West Africa.—It is stated in the *Geographical Journal* for February that the Royal Geographical Society has been officially informed that what was previously known as German South-West Africa is, for