WILEY

Review: A British Pioneer

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the word being ordinarily applied to the product of the accumulation of plants growing on peat-bogs, whether of the swamp or upland sort.

Having disposed of the origin of peat, the work goes on through a series of chapters to treat of the various aspects from which it can be considered. It is impossible to deal with these in detail, and we can only mention three: the influence of peat-mosses on intercourse settlement and place-names, the industrial uses of peat-bogs, and the post-glacial history of the Swiss flora. These chapters are followed by detailed descriptions of the peat-bogs of Switzerland, by an extensive literature of the subject, and copious indices, the whole forming a work which must always remain useful to any one interested in the origin, distribution, or utilization of peat.

R. D. O.

A GEOLOGICAL TEXT-BOOK.

'Structural and Field Geology for Students of Pure and Applied Science.' By James Geikie, D.C.L., F.R.S., etc. Pp. xx. + 435; 56 plates and 142 illustrations in text. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd; and London: Gurney & Jackson. 1905.

This is a new handbook of geology which is specially addressed to beginners in field geology, but a hope is expressed, in the preface, that it may be found useful also to students who are preparing for professions in which some knowledge of structural geology is of practical importance. It is not the author's fault that the profession of mining is practically the only one to which this applies; to the civil engineer, as to the geographer, the work does not especially appeal, for the branches of geology which are of principal interest to them—those, namely, that deal with the agencies which shape the surface of the Earth—are relegated to a single brief chapter at the end of the book. This part of the science is, however, excluded by the title, and within the limits named by its author the book is pleasantly and clearly written, covers satisfactorily the subject it professes to deal with, and is adorned by a well-executed and judiciously selected series of illustrations which recall, by their absolute contrast, the crude and ill-executed wood blocks with which an earlier generation of students had generally to be content.

GENERAL.

A BRITISH PIONEER.

'Seymour Vandeleur.' The Story of a British Officer. By Colonel F. I. Maxse, C.B., D.S.O. London: the National Review Office. 1905.

Dedicated to the officers of the Brigade of Guards, this book will be found to contain a most interesting account of the life of the late Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Vandeleur, combined with a general description of his campaigns. The book commences with a brief history of Colonel Vandeleur's early life, which shows in various ways what a remarkable youth he was. Of his early manhood and study at the Royal Military College (Sandhurst) there is plenty of information, and a point worthy of notice is that Vandeleur learnt his elementary surveying and map-making (which eventually proved of immense value to him) at the Royal Geographical Society. Seymour Vandeleur made a special study of languages, and when he was under orders to proceed to any British colony or foreign district, he gathered all the information he could get from books on the country he was going to, and also learnt its language. On his return from Somaliland, he presented the Royal Geographical Society with a map of that country, which is still in their possession.

A portion of the subject-matter (*e.g.* the particulars of the Fashoda incident, the Sudan campaign, and the Boer war, as also the long account of the discovery

of the Victoria Nyanza) has little immediate connection with the main object of the book, though the chapter devoted to the Egyptian army at work is most interesting reading. Colonel Vandeleur's work in Nigeria and Uganda (which earned him his Distinguished Service Order) is, however, fully dealt with, and this is, of course, of most interest to geographers.

Colonel Maxse's book is full of excellent illustrations and maps, and forms a worthy record of Colonel Vandeleur's life, which must stand as a guide to officers and others who aim at extending the bounds of knowledge, at the same time reminding them of a man who lived a strenuous life and died in the service of his country.

A. C. I.

THE MONTHLY RECORD

EUROPE.

Geographical Researches in Andalusia.—If proof were needed of the important work still remaining to be done before the physical geography even of European countries is thoroughly understood, it would be supplied by an interesting paper on the basin of Guadix and Baza, contributed to the *Zeitschrift* of the Berlin Geographical Society by Dr. L. Siegert (1905, Nos. 7 and 8). There are districts in Spain which are little visited even by the tourist, and of which the physical features have yet been subjected to but little scientific investigation. Such is the district described by Dr. Siegert, which forms a remarkable basin almost surrounded by mountain ranges, in the eastern portion of Andalusia. The traveller reached the scene of his researches by the post road from Granada to Guadix, which leads across the rugged range of the Sierra Harana, and after following for a time the gorge-like valley of the Rio Fardes, suddenly emerges from the mountains and gives a bird's eye view over what appears to be a wide featureless plain, devoid of trees or human habitations. A closer view shows that its apparently level surface is really furrowed by valleys, whose sides are modelled by streams into the most wonderful architectural relief, and glow under the Andalusian sky with a perfect symphony of colour. The surface geology shows by contrast a general uniformity, the hard and soft strata of the Guadix formation being repeated with great monotony, while fossils are almost absent. On the surface of the plain, the botanical features are similarly uniform, the greater part being a steppe covered with esparto grass, though on approaching the mountains a greater variety is noticeable. The valleys, on the contrary, form in places regular gardens. Dr. Siegert enters very fully into the past geological events which are responsible for the existing form of the basin. This is found on examination to be composed, structurally, of two distinct parts, corresponding to the local division into the plains of Guadix and Baza, the latter lying east of the former. Topographically, the dividing-line is quite unnoticeable, but it may be drawn from the transverse valley of the Guadiana menor to the Sierra de Baza. The plain is watered by numberless streams, which take their rise in the surrounding mountains and escape by the Guadiana menor to the Guadalquivir and the Atlantic. The surrounding mountain-wall displays a complicated series of structure lines, which can only be understood after a careful study of the geological history of this part of Spain. The Palæozoic peneplain, which still remains undisturbed in the "Meseta" to the north, was in Andalusia depressed and covered with Mesozoic deposits, the dividing-line between the two areas being a great fault running from west-north-west to east-south-east. The southern block was again subjected to a tangential thrust

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