Review

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purposes, such as irrigation and the provision of mechanical power, and his special contribution is a discussion of these matters "in connection with a consideration of the all-important question—will it pay?" To emphasize this point of view he employs a new term: hydro-economics.

The work is of wide extent, for there are detailed and quantitative studies of precipitation, evaporation, run-in, and run-off, which deal necessarily with fluctuations as well as averages and totals. Next the storage and regulation of water are considered, actual works carried out in the United States being described and discussed. Then the uses of water are treated in a similar way, the problems of irrigation, of water-power, of water-transport, of drainage, and of fisheries being considered in the concrete, while the "all-important" matters of finance receive attention as well as the engineering methods.

To the geographer the book offers much useful material. The data collected in the chapters on precipitation, evaporation, run-off, and run-in can be utilized in the study of physical geography; they are actual facts, not generalizations of uncertain validity. Similarly, the accounts of the methods and results of utilizing engineering works for agriculture, manufacturing, and transport may be of great service in the study of economic geography. Also the whole trend of the book is such that the geographer may read it with advantage, for it is essentially correlative; the inter-relations between the phenomena are necessarily shown. The reaction between natural conditions and human activities is indeed involved throughout, and to suggest the wide outlook taken by the author, the title of two of the many excellent photographs may be quoted: "Sheep grazing along canal in vicinity of Huntly, Montana, illustrating how they may be used to keep down the weeds on canal-banks"; and "Apache Indian labourers at Roosevelt Reservoir in Arizona." The employment of these Indians was made possible by the construction of works for water conservation.

J. F. U.

Les Grands Marchés des Matières premières.— F. Maurette. Paris: Armand Colin. 1922. Pp. 198. *Maps and Diagrams.* 5 frs.

The Collection Armand Colin of which this forms a volume comprises short authoritative books on various aspects of knowledge, suitable for the reader of some education. The aim of this volume is modest and it deals only with the economic geography of coal, corn, wool, cotton, silk, rubber, iron, and mineral oil. Each is treated on the same plan: geographical and economic factors in the trade, areas of production, and markets. Small black and white maps illustrate distributions. Statistics of pre-war and post-war date are given, and there are fairly full bibliographies to each chapter. The book would certainly be of use in connection with a text-book of economic geography. Its scope is limited, but its treatment is thorough.

R. N. R. B.

Traité Comparatif des Nationalités. Tome premier. Les Eléments Extérieurs de la Nationalité.— A Van Gennep. Paris: Payot. 1922. Pp. 228.

Prof. Van Gennep introduces his work with a discussion of the word "nationality," about which he seems to agree with Auerbach that it is a psychic fact closely associated with the condition that the people concerned must—whatever their origin, tongue, culture—have shared the same lot for a long time; but he fails to note how clearly this is associated with limited areas and definite frontiers, so that the people within these must have the necessary

intimacy of intercourse and similarity of experience. He points out that the conception is by no means so recent in origin as most persons assume, being essentially identical with what may be called patriotism ; the novelty of to-day is the claim that those who wish to join together in a "nationality," have a natural right to do so. Historically, almost the contrary was true: the base of union amongst the Swiss lay behind the fact that their land was a continual battle-ground for three great mutually hostile powers, and to maintain the union it was necessary to foster a patriotic feeling, *e.g.* in schools and by exchange of recruits. In only one case, that of the Poles in 1464, was there any real anticipation of the modern "self-determination."

The rest of the book is devoted to a full and suggestive analysis of "the symbols" of nationality—the frontier being one—carried out in a typically French way to logical, even if occasionally absurd, conclusions ; and the evolution of these is traced from woad and tatoo through dress, architecture, and script (*e.g.* gothic and cyrillic) to the national flag and the national anthem. A wise caution is given on the subject of social customs, *e.g.* the *slava* which the Serbs claim to be peculiar to themselves has been found throughout practically the whole of the Old World. But all these symbols Prof. Van Gennep looks upon as episodic or accidental—a conquered people could do without them, and yet keep a profound sense of their own nationality ; they are not nearly so striking and enduring as language, even though the latter acquired value as a symbol only during the nineteenth century, few governments looking upon any special speech—other perhaps than Hebrew or Arabic—as needing surveillance or suppression. Of course, all this has been changed in later times ; and the contact of standardized kindred languages, *e.g.* Polish and Russian or Portuguese and Spanish, has come to suggest opposition rather than kinship. This makes it grotesque to make "the linguistic family," *e.g.* Latin, Germanic, or Slavic, the base of any political union, *e.g.* Pan-German or Pan-Slavic ; it might be the base of economic union, and it is noticeable that ports, *e.g.* in the Mediterranean or even under the old Hanseatic League, do or did not boycott languages or force strangers to use the local speech. At the same time, polyglot peoples do *not* lose the symbolic value of their mother-tongue. Hence, again, however, the author warns against the fallacies based on statistics, *e.g.* the deliberately falsified census of Germany ; and, if the figures for so-called civilized countries are so untrustworthy, what credit should be given to those for the more backward ?

The chapter on Frontiers summarizes the recent work done on this subject, especially in England ; and emphasis is laid on (*a*) the fact that in modern times every boundary tends to be thought of as an ideal line ; (*b*) that the care taken to fix it is a modern development—the "zone" idea being essentially primitive, though it lingered on in Europe as the March ; and (*c*) the over-estimate of the sea as a frontier, when it is a highway much more than a barrier. The author analyses the two meanings of "natural frontiers"—discarding both (p. 162) ; he thinks that a navigable river is the best frontier because it approaches most nearly to an ideal line, but doubts the practicability of having a frontier through the natural unit of the river-basin ; and he discusses at length (chapter viii.) linguistic and economic frontiers, minimizing the value of the former and inquiring how far the soil and the sub-soil should be regarded of equal importance in the case of the latter. If the soil is subordinated, the people "who live on the surface" may be separated in spite of conscious and traditional affinities. In any case, economic frontiers would be no more stable than strategic frontiers ; and, as a matter of fact, symbols acquire full

value only when nationality is in danger). Contrariwise, when a nationality is convinced of its persistence, many symbols lose their importance altogether (cf. the different attitude of France and Germany to "alien" languages, *e.g.* in Alsace).

The paper covers and the type are rather better than usual for a French book, if in no way worthy of the text, which is extraordinarily interesting, impartial, and complete.

L. W. L.

Legendary Islands of the Atlantic: a study in Medieval Geography. William H. Babcock. New York: American Geographical Society. 1922. \$3.50.

The progress of exploration, apparently, has always been accompanied by a desire to express for practical purposes the results of exploration in cartographical form. The historical value of maps and charts thus produced depends upon many factors—human, physical, and instrumental—and their authority in consequence varies considerably. It is therefore unlikely that early and mediæval charts may alone be taken as solving the problem of discovery, though it is interesting to speculate what the charted land and sea forms really represent. This volume, which is No. 8 of the Research Series issued by the American Geographical Society, discusses the various islands which by legend or mediæval chart are connected with the North Atlantic. The book is valuable for its presentation of a subject which is well worthy of attention, and its value is increased by the numerous reproductions of relevant portions of the maps. Where the author has limited himself to mere description there can be little controversy, but his suggestions for the pre-Columbian discovery of the West Indies and the pre-Cabot discovery of the St. Lawrence need much more evidence than the maps themselves supply. A case no doubt may be stated for the former on the evidence of such maps as Beccario (1435) and Bianco (1436), but it needs a lively faith to see in the Brazil island of the Catalan map of 1375 the enclosing land of the St. Lawrence Gulf and its containing islands.

W. H. B.

Clouds. A Descriptive Illustrated Guide-Book to the Observation and Classification of Clouds.—Geo. Aurborne Clarke, F.R.P.S., F.R. Met. Soc. London: Constable & Co. 1920. Size $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$; pp. 131; Pl. 40. 21s. *net*.

This book comes at a fitting interval after the earlier English works of Ley and Clayden on the subject. It discloses striking powers of observation and an intimate acquaintance with the scenery of the sky, whilst the physical explanation of typical cloud forms is on the whole well presented. Half the volume consists of plates, and although these are excellent, one feels that the serious student who after all can watch the sky for himself might prefer a more liberal allotment of letterpress in lieu of so many pictures which have made the price so high. One of these, plate 35*b*, illustrates finely a fact comparatively little known, namely, the decidedly increased luminosity of the sky inside the primary arc of the rainbow, and the feature is duly commented upon and accounted for.

The author speaks of the flocculent cirro-cumuli as the most beautiful of all clouds, and certainly the unique delicacy of the high-level forms must be conceded; but one can only contrast, not compare, them with the massive thunder piles which reveal beauty of a more austere and rugged order. The chapter devoted to the discussion of cloud-forms is rather disappointing, and no reference is made to the striking resemblance frequently, and indeed typically, shown by the cumulo-nimbus ranges to mountains, an analogy pressed not only by Ruskin but also by Tyndall.