WILEY

Review

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 49, No. 6 (Jun., 1917), pp. 462-463

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1779577>

Accessed: 24-06-2016 00:44 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Wiley, The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to The Geographical Journal

condition he has a latitude that ought not to be more than five seconds wrong, and if he cannot get anything else, that is a very good start, but if he only works on the one face he would have nothing worth much.

Sir THOMAS HOLDICH : This is an interesting subject, and to me rather an old one, for I suppose I have taken more astronomical observations with a 6-inch theodolite, in more varied climates and under more varied conditions, than anybody, in this room. With a 6-inch theodolite graduated to ten seconds, with a vernier and microscope to read the vernier, over and over again have we found the results of observations taken to north and south stars disagree by a fixed quantity perhaps on one night, but on another night by quite another quantity. I am rather surprised that Dr. Ball should find so great a difference as four seconds after taking a series of very careful observations ; and I should like to know how he isolated his theodolite—whether on a pillar or tripod—and how he protected it from dislevelment due to his own weight. Climatic conditions affect observation very much, and if at the end of a long day's march you have to find your latitude and be packed up and ready to start early again the next morning, you cannot choose your weather or defend yourself against these conditions. In the change from perhaps some degrees below zero at night to strong sun and great heat during the day, the whole constitution of the theodolite positively alters, just as a plane-table's does. We generally succeeded in trans-frontier work in getting latitudes to about one second, but that does not at all mean that we were within one second of the truth, because we generally knew nothing at all about attraction on the plumb line, though on one occasion at least we were able to determine what that dislevelment really amounted to, and we found there was an attraction of at least 40". No experiment that I have ever made in conjunction with others has successfully determined the personal equation in observation with the smaller instruments. We want explorers to know the value of their instruments and what to guard against ; and we shall be interested to read Dr. Ball's paper.

Mr. HINKS : Perhaps, sir, you will allow me to make one remark. The advantages of comparison between astrolabe and theodolite have been mentioned. I think the meeting may be glad to know that within a month of that article by Colonel Woodroffe on the advantages of the astrolabe appearing in the *Journal*, I learned that astrolabes had been ordered from Paris by the Hydrographer for the use of the Navy, by the Survey Department of India, and by Dr. Ball for the Egyptian Survey ; so that there seems to be every prospect of our having the desired comparison within a year or two.

REVIEWS

EUROPE

Twentieth Century France.— M. Betham-Edwards. London : Chapman & Hall. 1917. Pp. xvi. and 221. *Illustrations.* 10s. 6d. net.

Few people know France so well as Miss Betham-Edwards, and her admiration for the country and its people equals her knowledge. 'Twentieth Century France' consists of a series of rather disconnected essays on a great variety of subjects, such as the great Paris Exhibitions, the French African colonies, Fabre the naturalist, modern literary productions, novelists and poets, highly interesting and illuminating studies of the Frenchwoman, Jaques Bonhomme as Republican and taxpayer, and the education of French children. It concludes with a chapter on French and German relations in the future. These

essays are particularly valuable for the light they throw on the social and domestic life of our neighbours across the Channel, concerning which there is still so much ignorance and misunderstanding on the part of English people. The *entente cordiale*, if it is to be sound and lasting, must rest on real knowledge and not on mere passing sentiment. A perusal of Miss Betham-Edwards's pages cannot fail to extend such knowledge and lead to a better and fuller understanding of French life and character. When English and French are fighting side by side for the same ends, the same ideals, the publication of such a work as this should prove as useful as it is opportune. There are several illustrations, the most interesting of which is a striking photograph of the distinguished naturalist, J. H. Fabre.

A Holiday in Umbria.— Sir T. G. Jackson, R.A. London: Murray. 1917. Pp. vii. and 206. *Illustrations.* 10s. 6d. *net.*

In this book Sir Thomas Jackson gives an account of two short tours in Eastern Italy made as long ago as 1881 and 1888. Owing no doubt to the long interval it is a little lacking in life and freshness. Rimini, Pesaro, Fano, Ancona, Loreto, Urbino and Gubbio were visited and are briefly described, attention being called to the architecture of the churches and palaces. Historical matter is interspersed regarding the mediæval reigning despots of these cities. The description of and comments on the architectural beauties of this, comparatively speaking, little-known part of Italy are very interesting coming from so distinguished an artist and architect as Sir Thomas Jackson. They are made all the more so by his charming sketches, some of which are admirably reproduced in colour. The palace of Urbino—a city dear to the artist as the birthplace of Raffael and Bramante—claims most attention, and is described in some detail with the aid of a plan and illustrations. The writer ends with an account of the journey over the Apennines through the Passo del Furlo, with its tunnel made in the time of Vespasian, to Gubbio, remarkable for its situation, *duomo* and palaces. More than a third of the book is given to an analysis of Castiglioni's curious work, 'Il Cortegiano,' so intimately associated with Urbino when it was the seat of the most refined court of the Middle Ages—a work worthy of being better known and more widely read than it is at the present day. A map of the district traversed would have been a useful addition.

E. A. P.

ASIA

A Naturalist in Borneo.— By the late R. W. C. Shelford, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, M.A., etc. Edited, with a Biographical Introduction, by E. B. Poulton, F.R.S., Hope Prof. of Zoology and Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1916. 15s. *net.*

Robert Shelford, the author of this posthumous book, died in his prime. Although during his forty years of life he had accomplished much research and systematic biological work, both as the highly qualified curator of the Sarawak State Museum in Borneo—to whose contents he added largely by well-planned scientific expeditions in the island—and later as the gifted assistant-curator of the Hope Department of Zoology at Oxford, he was not permitted to garner the full harvest of which his powers gave such sure promise. Having spent seven years in the Bornean curatorship, of which he says, "I would fain pay a small tribute to the delights of this appointment," Mr. Shelford returned to England and was appointed to the Hope Department of Zoology at Oxford, where he worked with his usual untiring energy, till a recrudescence of a trouble from which he had suffered in latent form for many years finally laid