
Review

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these and their distribution depend on physical factors, such as light, temperature, and currents ; and the whole whaling problem is thus closely associated with the study of these factors. The question is further complicated by the fact that whales undertake extensive migrations, more or less seasonal in character ; and there is reason to believe that these are largely connected with the fact that some of them, and perhaps all, visit lower latitudes in order to breed and to bring forth their young in warmer water. The whaling industry of South Georgia thus has a direct interest in what takes place in the waters adjacent to the coasts of Africa, South America, Australia, and New Zealand. Much remains to be ascertained with regard to the rate of growth of whales, the age at which they become sexually mature, their breeding seasons, the length of their period of gestation, the frequency with which they produce their young, and the length of their life. On some of these questions evidence has been obtained by means of the statistical returns which have been furnished by the whaling companies for some years to the British Museum (Natural History). The Committee recognize the importance of this study and recommend its continuation.

The interest of certain other branches of the proposed inquiries is by no means confined to the area of the Dependencies. Attention may be directed to the work which has been done by Mr. R. C. Mossman on the correlation said to exist between the meteorological conditions of Antarctic regions and those of other countries as distant as South Africa, Egypt, and India. Tidal observations in the area of the Dependencies are also of the highest importance in connection with ocean tides in general. The accurate survey of the waters of the Dependencies should result in increased security of navigation, and would constitute a material advance in our knowledge of a large area which is at present insufficiently charted.

It may be hoped that the scientific societies will not be slow to recognize the unique opportunity which would be provided by the successful inauguration of the scheme recommended by the Committee, and that the Royal Geographical Society in particular will lend its influence in cordial support of proposals made not only for the development of the economic importance of a large area in which this country is directly interested, but also with the view of increasing our knowledge of many scientific problems which urgently require study. It may be added that the proposed expedition differs in one very important respect from others which have explored Antarctic waters. The area to be investigated is visited annually by a considerable whaling fleet, which will no doubt be utilized largely in obtaining evidence on some of the problems to be investigated. This is in itself a matter of considerable importance, but it has this further advantage, that, in the event of accidents occurring to the research vessels, it may be possible to find assistance near at hand.

SIDNEY F. HARMER.

REVIEWS

EUROPE

Middlesex in British, Roman, and Saxon Times.— M. Sharpe. London : Bell. 1919. 12s. 6d. net.

APART from a brief account of the pre-Roman antiquities of the country, and a description of the ford at Brentford where it is now generally agreed Cæsar crossed the Thames, this work is devoted to an attempt to determine the

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character of the land settlement in Middlesex in Roman and Saxon times. The Roman survey is traced by reference to ancient rural ways, sites of compita, bobontini, and other landmarks, place-names, etc. In the suggested continuity of the Roman and Saxon settlements, the centuria becomes the virgate, the vicus the vill, the pagus the hundred: the thane takes the place of the emperor, and geneats, cosetlas, and geburs represent tributarii, contributi, and coloni. The author illustrates his conclusions by several maps. Some of these would not have suffered had they been on a larger scale. One of them embodies the interesting suggestion, resting on somewhat slender evidence, that no fewer than forty-seven churches stand on the sites of Romano-British pagan chapels or compita. The book concludes with the inevitable reference to Domesday, that invaluable check on all speculation regarding land settlement in pre-Norman times.

E. A. P.

ASIA

A Geography of Asia.— Joseph Martin. London: Macmillan. 1919. 5s.

This book is one of Macmillan's Practical Modern Geographies, and nothing more need be said to indicate the quality of the map-making and printing. Mr. Martin divides Asia into four areas: South-West Highlands from Baluchistan to Smyrna; the Monsoon Region; the Mid-Asian Deserts and Steppes; Northern Asia. His grouping brings the whole of India, China proper, Japan and the East Indies with Siam and Malaya into one *region*, that of the Monsoons, and provokes inquiry as to what, in his view, the term "monsoon" covers.

On p. 57, the Monsoon Lands are classified thus: (a) Temperate: north of the Hwangho, cold winds, wheat grown; (b) Sub-tropical: south of China and Japan—mild winter, hot and wet summers, rice grown; (c) Tropical: India and Indo-China—warm winters, very heavy summer rains; (d) Equatorial: East Indies and Philippines—always hot, heavy rains with both monsoons. Figs. 27 and 28 show "Asia: Winds and Rainfall," for the periods May—October, November—April. The wind directions are here too highly generalized, for the best authorities show no such definite indraught from the Pacific as is at all comparable with the summer indraught from the Indian Ocean.

On pp. 55–56 it is asserted that "the strength of the inflowing summer monsoon is greatly increased by the presence in Central Asia of the lofty and extensive plateau of Tibet." Mr. Martin subscribes to the Central Asian furnace-flue hypothesis in a modified form, and bases his argument in part upon the somewhat venturesome assumption that the temperature of the atmosphere falls 1° Fahr. for every 300 feet rise in elevation. The author does not appear to attach much importance to the climatic divisions of Herbertson and Köppen, to the possibility that heavy summer rains may occur in other ways than in connection with a presumed indraught of oceanic air, or to the relationship between rainfall and the average direction of cyclonic storms roughly parallel to the lie of Japan in the one case, in contrast to their direction up the Ganges valley in the other case.

Apart from this general question of outlook over the whole continent, the treatment and arrangement of the individual facts provide the student with considerable information, attractively presented, concerning Asia.

B. C. W.