The Geology of the British Empire by F. R. C. Reed; Map Projections by Arthur R. Hinks
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The Geology of the British Empire.— F. R. C. Reed. London : Edward Arnold. 1921. Pp. 480. *Maps and Sections. Price 40s. net.*

Mr. Cooper Reed essayed a formidable task when he undertook to prepare a treatise on the geology of the British Empire. It is practically impossible in the limited space available to deal even-handed justice to all its scattered territories, even when the British Isles are omitted from the purview of the work. Inevitably undue attention is given to the smaller isolated dependencies : each of the great Dominions and India needs a substantial volume for itself. These brief descriptions of the geology of great continental areas cannot be regarded as having much genuine educational value. There is no space for such a development of the subject as would enable the student to realize the characters of the rocks and their relations. In conjunction, however, with the lists of the literature of the different areas the book constitutes an invaluable work of reference which should find a place in every college library and that of every institution which is concerned with the development and prosperity of the Empire.

Perhaps the most satisfactory portion of the book is that dealing with the Dominion of South Africa and the tropical African protectorates, which occupies 128 pages of text out of a total of 461. The main structural features are clearly indicated, as well as the general nature of the formations.

The Dominions of Canada and Newfoundland have, on the other hand, only 62 pages devoted to them, though their extent and wealth and the great variety of the geological features would seem to demand much fuller treatment. The same considerations apply in the case of India (including Burma), which is allotted 59 pages. In such a condensed abstract by an author who has no personal acquaintance with the area, some inaccuracies of statement could hardly be avoided. On p. 271, "northward into Tenassarim" should have been "southward." It is no longer true, as stated on p. 303, that the Digboi oilfield is the most important commercially in the Assam and eastern Bengal area. The Badar Field (which is not mentioned) has now a greater output. Again, the ironstone shales of the Damuda Series, referred to on p. 309 as extensively worked, have not been used for years. Australia is disposed of in only 47 pages, but the best use is made of this limited allowance to the Island Continent.

Map Projections.— Arthur R. Hinks, C.B.E., M.A., F.R.S. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Cambridge University Press. 1921. *Diagrams. 12s. 6d. net.*

It is pleasant to note that there has been a demand for a fresh edition of Mr. Hinks's book on map projections, which serves as an admirable introduction to a technical subject of every-day importance to geographers. The new edition is a reprint of the old, with three additional chapters and some small corrections to the former text. It is not so very long ago that the whole subject was much neglected in this country, and it is due to Mr. Hinks, Mr. A. E. Young, Mr. J. I. Craig, and a few others, that it is now receiving the attention that it deserves. For it is, in spite of the difficulties of its mathematical treatment, a subject which no practical mapmaker can afford to neglect, for its proper understanding does much affect the value of the maps that he produces.

Thus, had our predecessors, a hundred years ago, made use of Mr. Young's modification of Cassini's Projection, it would have been possible to have plotted a larger number of counties of the British large-scale maps on one

meridian, and thereby to have saved inconvenience and expense. Again, the war brought out the necessity for a complete understanding, on the part of military geographers, of the mathematical qualities of the maps of France and Belgium, and of possible better systems. This was a matter, not of merely scientific interest, but of genuine practical importance, in the use by the artillery of the data furnished by the surveyors. Mr. Hinks gives an interesting sketch of the steps by which it became known that the French were actually using, for their new projection for the Western Front, Tissot's projection of minimum deformation, and not, as had been supposed, Lambert's conical orthomorphic projection. It may be said, in parenthesis, that both the French and British geographical services in the field were informed that the projection was Lambert's. The difference, however, is slight.

Mr. Hinks rightly gives the impression that the subject is by no means exhausted. It is, indeed, very much alive, and the new edition of his book will, it may be hoped, stimulate many to dive into the fascinating problems that it presents, problems which are no less interesting to the theoretical student than they are valuable to the actual maker of maps. Although the book under review is primarily intended for the practical man, it may be confidently recommended to all interested in the subject, whether from the point of view of the actual constructor of maps or from that of the student of theory. Both will find much to interest them, and not a little that cannot conveniently be found elsewhere.

C. F. C.

THE MONTHLY RECORD

EUROPE

The Rainfall of France.

A DETAILED discussion of the rainfall conditions of the various regions of France has appeared at rather long intervals during the last few years in the *Annales de Géographie*, and in the issue of that journal for March 1921 the author, the well-known French meteorologist M. A. Angot, presents an interesting summary for the country as a whole. In the mountainous departments of Hautes-Pyrénées, Haute Savoie, Doubs, Jura, and Basses-Pyrénées the mean annual values exceed 1000 mm. (40 inches), whilst in the low-lying departments of Seine, Seine-et-Oise, and Eure-et-Loire, as well as in Bouches-du-Rhône in the far south, they fall below 600 mm. (24 inches). The mean annual fall for the whole of continental France is given as 831 mm. (33 inches), which is but slightly below that for England and Wales (35 inches). The sensible equality in the rainfall of England and France is interesting, suggesting that the generally higher temperature of France, which is a factor favourable to a heavier rainfall, is more than set off in England by the greater persistence and strength of the humid Atlantic winds in relation to the configuration of the land. If we consider the greater size and complexity of France, the seasonal variation of the mean rainfall appears to be rather simpler than in England. France is typical of the west-central European region of wet autumns, the month of October showing at most stations either the principal or a decided secondary maximum. The driest month is February, except in the Mediterranean region of dry summers, where it is July. It is noteworthy that whereas certain parts of the centre and south-west of France show the chief maximum in May or June, pointing to a predominance of early summer thunderstorms, the month of July is, for a summer month, dry nearly