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Napoleon attached the greatest importance to the work of the *Ingénieurs Géographes*, though his references to that body, quoted by the author, are couched in terms neither complimentary nor appreciative. The Great Master of War, to whom time was always a matter of the first consideration, had little patience for the delays incident on the production of an original sketch, and still less for those due to the processes of reproduction. But Napoleon himself was one of the principal difficulties with which the corps had to contend. The author relates that, during the campaign of 1813 in Silesia, a waggon containing maps having been lost, it became necessary to send to Paris by special express for all available topographical information. The only map in the possession of the department, of which a rough tracing for the engraver had been taken, was sent, and Napoleon, once in possession of it, refused to give it up, although, without it, it was impossible to proceed with the engraving. After it had been in his hands a month, the chief of the Topographical Department ventured to ask for it; but before he had uttered two words, Napoleon stopped him with "*Vous raisonnez comme un Ingénieur Géographe vous! J'ai besoin de tout, e plus même, s'il y en a.*"

Napoleon, however, was the first to grant military rank to the corps, in 1809, and he decreed about the same time that it was in future to be recruited exclusively from the École Polytechnique.

Amongst the most important topographical results of Napoleon's time was the map of Egypt, on a scale of $\frac{1}{1000000}$ in forty-seven sheets, which is to this day a standard work. It was compiled during the Consulate from sketches made by the French troops during the occupation of Egypt, and from all available documents both ancient and modern. The engraving was completed in 1808; but Napoleon then directed that it should remain a State secret document. In 1814 it was decided to publish the map, but it did not come into the hands of the public till 1820.

In 1831 the corps of *Ingénieurs Géographes* ceased to exist. Its members were incorporated into the General Staff of the army, and under another title their work is continued at the present time. Colonel Berthaut is not in favour of the reconstitution of a special corps of topographers on several grounds, but mainly because, in the interests of the education of officers in general, it is better that the study of topography should be encouraged amongst all ranks than that it should be restricted to a selected body. Whilst agreeing in this view, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the institution of the *Ingénieurs Géographes* in France has had much to do with the leading position she has taken in matters of topography, and with the example she has offered to other nations by giving to the world maps of all countries in which her soldiers have served.

J. K. T.

A CARTOGRAPHIC ANNUAL.

'L'Année Cartographique. Supplément annuel à toutes les publications de Géographie et de Cartographie.' Dressé et rédigé sous la direction de F. Schrader. Douzième supplément contenant les modifications géographiques et politiques des années 1900-1901. Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1903. Price 3 fr.

This useful publication has now reached its twelfth year of issue, and in the present number the principal geographical explorations during the years 1900-1901 are dealt with. There are three sheets of maps, one devoted to Asia, another to Africa, and the third to America. Upon the first there are four maps and an inset showing the route and surveys of the Kozloff expedition through Mongolia and Tibet, those of Mr. R. Logan-Jack in Szechuan and Yunnan, and of Mr. Barclay Parsons from Hankau to Canton. There is also a small map of the French railway under construction between Lao-Kai in Tonking to Yunnan. The second

sheet contains a general map of Africa, illustrating the progress of railway development in 1901, maps showing the routes of recent explorers in the region of the upper Nile and Southern Ethiopia, the route of Mr. P. H. Selby in North-East Rhodesia, the explorations of MM. Bos and Superville in the region of the upper Ubangi, and of M. Lesieur in the French Congo district. On the American sheet there are maps of Canada and the United States, showing the progress of the Government surveys; Honduras, from the surveys of Dr. K. Sapper; and a part of Eastern Bolivia, from the maps showing the explorations of Colonel J. M. Pando and Sir Martin Conway given in the *Geographical Journal*. It is interesting and satisfactory to note that no less than five of the maps contained in this issue have been taken from those published in the *Geographical Journal*, in addition to which there is other evidence of the fact that this Society's publication has been freely used.

Upon the back of each sheet is given a short description of the maps and an account of each of the explorations and surveys they illustrate. It is clear that M. Schrader has made good use of the very limited space at his disposal, and the leading geographical facts connected with the various journeys are mentioned. The remarkable error of about two degrees of latitude which exists in the original maps of the southern section of the Kozloff expedition is referred to, and other matters of an interesting and important character are dealt with. Altogether the present issue of the 'Année Cartographique' will doubtless prove useful for general reference, and it is only to be regretted that it is not further extended and rendered more complete.

GENERAL.

NATURALIST TRAVEL.

'Aus den Wanderjahren eines Naturforschers.' Von Ernst Hartert. Berlin, London, and the Hague. 1901-1902.

This is a readable volume, made up of sketches of travel, mostly in the tropics, undertaken in various years from 1885 onwards, for purposes of zoological collecting and research. In the year mentioned the well-known German explorer, Flegel, was organizing his last fatal expedition to the regions of the Niger and Benue on behalf of the German African Association, and Mr. Hartert, then a young zoologist eager to make acquaintance with the marvels of tropical nature, volunteered to accompany the party as collector of natural history specimens. Another volunteer was Dr. Staudinger, to whom and Mr. Hartert it eventually fell, owing to the illness of other members of the expedition, to carry through the most important part of its programme—the journey from the Benue overland to Kano and Sokoto, for the presentation to the Emirs of those cities of letters from the German Emperor. The account of this journey forms the first item in the present volume, and the most important from a geographical point of view. The Hausa countries were then much less known than at present, and as the route from Zaria to Sokoto was one which had never been traversed by a European, the results were of some importance. They have, of course, been long since made public, both in scientific papers and in the work of Dr. Staudinger published in 1889, but Mr. Hartert's observations on the country traversed, its natural history, people and prospects, are of interest at a time when so much attention is being directed to the countries in question. The main ornithological, botanical, and other scientific results of the journey are recorded in special chapters. Some of the collections have unfortunately been dispersed without being properly described, and so little is really known of the zoology of the Hausa countries that Mr. Hartert promises a rich harvest to any naturalist who may make use of the newly gained facilities for research in those regions. Other journeys described in the volume took the author to south-east