Review

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necessary, and it has the fundamental defect that you do not walk over the ground; and also there is this difficulty, that in wooded country and in flat country you really cannot use it at all. But I think it should undoubtedly be adopted by people who are engaged in exploring mountainous regions which are difficult to get at, or in the ordinary explorer's work where a man may very likely camp for a week or two in a place, where he can take the photographs; after he comes home these can be developed and a regular map produced—something very much better than the explorers bring home now. There is one other point I should mention. I think I may say, on behalf of the Research Department, that we do not mind how technical a subject is. This time we ought certainly to have an appendix to the paper, an appendix which will give the more technical side, which has been omitted in the paper which was circulated. On your behalf I beg to thank Mr. Thompson for his exceptionally interesting paper.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.

'La France.' By Vidal de la Blache, Membre de l'Institut. With 302 engravings and maps in the text, and a separate coloured map. Paris: Hachette. 1908 [1907]. *Price* 25 fr.

THIS admirable and indeed model geographical work, model in point of style as well as of geographical interest, was reviewed on its original publication on p. 112 of vol. 23 of the *Journal*. It has now been converted into a handsome quarto volume, with wide margins and numerous pictorial illustrations, which add to its geographical value; for these views are all carefully selected to illustrate distinctive geographical features, and all have notes appended to set forth their geographical significance. The only complaint that can be made is that these notes are in a type rather too small, and, on the glossy paper, rather too faint to be easily read, especially where the lines run across the whole width of the page, and are thus not very easy to follow.

G. G. C.

ASIA.

BURMA.

'The Province of Burma.' By Alleyne Ireland. Boston and New York: Houghton & Mifflin. Two vols. Pp. xxi., 1023. 2 *Maps*. *Price* \$10.

These two massive volumes are the first instalment of the Report on Colonial Administration in the Far East, for the preparation of which Mr. Ireland received the appointment of Colonial Commissioner of Chicago University in 1901. In a general preface he acknowledges the very full assistance, both official and unofficial, which he has received in the prosecution of his work, and these two volumes alone are sufficient evidence of the careful use he has made of it. He premises that no attempt has been made to render the volumes attractive to the general reader, but no reader could fail to appreciate the admirable arrangement of the volumes considered as works of reference; the only possible criticism in this connection appears to be that, in view of the full analysis of each chapter given in the contents table, the index might, perhaps, to a greater extent than it does, have given each detail in its own alphabetical place, instead of grouping details under general headings, or

omitting them. To take one example, the word "roads" does not appear, yet these are fully treated. Mr. Bartholomew has provided a map of Burma, and a political map of Further India and the archipelago.

The author opens with a general description of Burma. Serving, as it does, merely as an introduction to his special subject, it is of no great length, but, like the rest of the work, it is characterized by very careful classification, and so leaves a clear impression. The history of the British acquisition of Burma is followed by an ethnographical chapter. The government in its present form is then dealt with, preceded by a short historical summary. The next chapter (the fifth) deals with the general administration of the country; the next with the civil service, and here the opportunity is taken of describing at considerable length the Indian Civil Service, with a historical retrospect, and full details as to the present method of examination and appointment. A chapter on each of the following subjects: judicial administration, police, prison administration, public instruction—the last a long chapter of particular interest—brings the first volume to an end, with the exception of a number of appendices, classified in their relationship to matter in the preceding chapters, and in great part statistical. The second volume is mainly concerned with finance and special and local administration. Three chapters are devoted to the first of these subjects, the importance of the land-revenue system demanding one. There follow the administration of the forests, and public works, including communications (railways and canals), irrigation works, etc. Then in successive chapters the administration of municipalities, villages, medical and sanitary affairs, harbours, the Shan states, and the Chin hills are dealt with, and the final chapter is devoted to trade and shipping. As in the first volume, a number of appendices follow, principally statistical, but including details of the opium regulations, and of the land-revenue settlement in Lower Burma. There is also a glossary of Indian and Burmese words used in the course of the work, and a "contribution to a bibliography of Burma," but it should be noted that, in addition to the latter, the author has adopted the admirable plan of quoting the leading works of reference and other sources for each subject at the head of each chapter.

The value of these volumes to students of anthropogeography is evident, and in undertaking his stupendous task, Mr. Ireland has rendered invaluable service to all interested in tropical colonization.

AFRICA.

EGYPT.

'Modern Egypt.' By the Earl of Cromer. 2 vols. London: Macmillan & Co. 1908.

Price 24s. net.

To the student of modern Egypt, who is versed in the very extensive literature on the subject, this authoritative—and, one might almost add, semi-official—work by Lord Cromer will be found most illuminating. It is not only a *précis* of British policy by its leading exponent, but also an historical retrospect of the rehabilitation of Egypt: from its bankruptcy through Ismail Pasha to the recognition—and, to some extent, the regularization—of the British Occupation by the Anglo-French Agreement of 1904. In a word, it is the commentaries of the Emancipator of Egypt.

Lord Cromer, as an historian, possesses the rare qualification of being able to get "outside of himself" as a statesman and man of action: he criticizes freely and impartially his own participation and responsibility in the events recorded. The spectacle of this great Proconsul rendering an account of his stewardship is very piquant. He examines, with the skill of an expert behind the scenes, each critical