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REVIEWS

EUROPE

Unknown London.— **W. G. Bell.** London: John Lane. 1919. Pp. x., 254. 6s. 6d. *net*.

THIS book is a series of short essays on antiquarian curiosities to be seen in London, which, as the author says, everybody knows about, but nobody knows. Not only are the interesting relics described, but the reader is told exactly how and where they can be seen. The subject of the first essay is one of the most curious, though certainly gruesome, for it is the head of the Duke of Suffolk, father of the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey, who perished on the scaffold in 1554. A photograph of it forms the frontispiece. Mr. Bell discourses in an interesting way on London's city walls, the Shrine of Edward the Confessor, the Roman Baths discovered in London—regarding the authenticity of which he does not appear to be fully convinced—and advances an ingenious and interesting theory on the origin of London's Stone. A peep into Domesday Book and the *Baga de Secretes*, recalls the acts of masterful monarchs. The author is at his best in the way he revives out of slender material scenes of old London life. The descriptions of a London household of A.D. 1337, of an old City Merchant's House, and of Wapping High Street, with Letters from London during the Great Plague, are examples. Nearly every topic is illustrated with a photograph. These illustrations add much to the value and interest of the work. Mr. Bell possesses the happy gift of clothing the dry bones of antiquity with the living flesh of modern interest, which cannot fail to make his essays attractive to the Londoner, if not indeed to the student of English history.

E. A. P.

Randers Fjords Naturhistorie.— **A. C. Johansen** under Medvirkning af Hj. Ditleysen, F. Heerfordt, J. P. Jacobsen, A. Jessen, Knud Jessen, M. Klinge, P. Kramp, J. Chr. Løfting, C. H. Ostenfeld, K. Stephensen og Hj. Ussing. Med 236 Figurer i Teksten og 5 Tavler. København: i Kommission hos C. A. Reitzel. 1918.

The Randers fiord debouches into the Kattegat between Aalborg and Aarhus, and is fed by the Gudenaa, which receives its chief tributary, the Nørreaa, a few miles west of Randers. Dr. Johansen and his colleagues give in this volume a very full account of the natural history of this fiord, chiefly based on their observations commenced in the year 1915. At the end of the Glacial Period, when the inland ice was melting, a river flowed from the neighbourhood of Silkeborg, west of Aarhus, to Fladbro, west of Randers, and then along the present Nørreaa valley westwards, finally turning in a northerly direction and debouching into the Hjarbæk fiord. As the ice disappeared from the environs of the Randers fiord, this river found an outlet to the Kattegat. During the *Ancylus* period the land rose nearly 20 feet, and the coast where the river entered the sea lay outside its present line, while in the *Littorina* period the land sank. Marine deposits have been found some distance up the Gudenaa and Nørreaa, and many southern animal types existed which have now vanished from the country. The fiord then formed was also much broader than at present, and subsequent smaller upheavals and subsidences, as well as erosion in later times, have much modified its outline. The early history of the fiord is sketched by Dr. Johansen on the evidence yielded by remains of animals and manufactured articles. Borings were made whereby traces of the old river channels were discovered and kitchen middens were found and proofs of man's

existence in this region as far back as the earlier part of the *Ancylus* period. Within historic times also the fiord has shrunk, and in quite recent times there have been marked changes. At present it extends up to Randers, a distance of 17 miles, while its greatest breadth is only about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Hydrographical observations, the flora and fauna, and other subjects, are treated by Dr. Johansen's colleagues, with special chapters on insects, molluscs, crustacea, fish, etc., and the volume is profusely illustrated with maps, diagrams, photographs, and drawings. W. A. T.

The Natural Wealth of Britain.— S. J. Duly. London, etc.: Hodder & Stoughton. 1919. 6s.

This is one of a "new teaching series of practical text-books," and its author and others may possibly have prayed for deliverance from the exuberance of their publishers. We are informed on the dust-cover that the series "is one of the firstfruits of the New Renaissance, and breathes the inspiration of the hour's occasion. It strives to build up the New Humanism on the basis of the student's immediate economic interests and environment." We learn with interest of the existence of such a renaissance, but if the public under its influence responds to this type of effusion, it must be feared that such influence is misdirected. But the book is not quite so bad as the dust-cover paints it. It proceeds, in three parts, from the geology, through the industry, to the geography of Britain, and under the heading of geography it reverts freely to geology, as when, on examining the site of a town and the reason for its growth the writer handles the geology first of all. To the majority of geographical teachers this method will not commend itself, but the place of geology in higher geographical education (this is, we take it, a higher text-book) has not yet been thoroughly reasoned out by geographers, and it has perhaps been too rigidly excluded by some—though the fault (if such it be) is not entirely on their side.

The book under notice is readable; but the choice of examples and the wording of generalizations are not always judicious. The maps and diagrams are generally crude, and that which purports to illustrate the main lines of railways out of London has at least five errors in it. O. J. R. H.

ASIA

Mineral Resources of Georgia and Caucasia.— D. Ghambashidze, F.R.G.S. London: Allen & Unwin. 1919. Pp. 182. *Folding Map and 8 half-tone Plates.* 8s. 6d. net.

Annexed over a century ago to the Russian Empire, Georgia considers her treatment to have been that of a step-child, and now that the revolution has enabled her to declare her independence she looks forward to a much greater development of her mineral resources. To call the attention of the Western nations to her potentialities is the object of this book. Much useful information is to be found in it, notwithstanding the occasional difficulty of disentangling the statistics from those of what were adjacent Russian provinces. The two principal mineral products are manganese ore and copper ore, but many others are found. The manganese production of Kutais is the largest in the world, although that of India is now approaching it. A special chapter is devoted to this industry, and very full details are given. Petroleum is found in several parts of Georgia, but her interest in oil lies far more in the fact that the pipeline from the Baku oilfield passes through her territory. Georgia, in fact, holds the main part of the shortest routes between the Black Sea and the Caspian, from which latter sea she is cut off by the new Mohammedan state of