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Review: Greater Britain

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consists of two parts—I. Elementary, containing (1) Home Geography and World Relations, (2) Elements of Continental Geography; and II. Advanced, consisting of (1) The Principles of Geography, and (2) Comparative Geography of the Continents. This distribution of the subject-matter, as well as the method of presentation, from consequences to causes in the elementary book, and from causes to consequences in the advanced book, are to be commended. The large number of views, usually well chosen, maps of varying value, and statistical diagrams, add to the value of the books. The General parts of the work and the United States are the sections which will be read with most interest by teachers in this country, and these they will find instructive and accurate. The other parts are not so well done. The author has been particularly unfortunate in the case of the illustrations of the British Isles. In the elementary book Derwent-water is shown as in the "Scotch lake country," while two spinning-wheel scenes, an old-fashioned farmhouse kitchen, and peat-cutting—without which, of course, no American collection of photographs of the old country would be complete—are selected, along with views of sheep and cattle, to represent British industries. In the advanced book a view of "Glenariff, Scotland, where the highlands and lowlands meet," must puzzle every reader who notices the typical valley cut in a plateau, in this case that of Antrim. The picture called "Looking over the English lowlands called 'downs'"—an unfortunate phrase—is an equally unfortunate selection, for the downs are nearly invisible. "Lima Glen, Scotland," is an American name unknown here, and Keswick is placed in Scotland. There is the common misuse of English for British. There are a number of statements to which exception might be taken, such as "France is not a great commercial nation" (its foreign trade is almost as great as that of the United States, which we presume the author would not describe in this way), "the Orange River colony is famous for its mines," "the diamond-mines here are the greatest in the world," "the Southern Alps rise to an altitude of 7000 feet," and a number of others. With a very thorough revision in a second edition, the value of these two volumes will be greatly enhanced.

GREATER BRITAIN.

'A Historical Geography of the British Empire.' By Hereford B. George. London: Methuen & Co. 1904. *Price 3s. 6d.*

It is not without significance that a third of this volume deals mainly with the British Islands and the geographical conditions, from the earliest times, which have determined their development. It is worth reminding ourselves that the size and picturesqueness of the geographical phenomena of a region are not always an index to its real importance in the present organization of the world. So there is good ground for devoting considerable space to the conditions which affected the political unity of England before the Conquest, while Scotland and Ireland receive a shorter but similar treatment. In modern times the economic rather than the political aspects of the question are necessarily emphasized. The real difficulty, after the early period, is to attain a consistent picture of general development in the light of geographical principles. There is much purely historical matter which has no very definite geographical basis; and some of the geography would, perhaps, be more in place in a modern descriptive text-book. But, on the whole, a fairly definite impression can be gathered of the growth of the British Isles in the light of geography. The same can scarcely be said of the sections dealing with the Empire at large. We have first the "stepping stones," mainly the islands; then the daughter nations, Canada and Australia; then the dependencies, India and the West Indies; then the protectorates, and finally the

British dominions in Africa. There must necessarily be a certain amount of cross-classification in any attempt to deal systematically with the whole empire; but by the above method the continuous and connected growth of a complicated organism is not made clear; the connection is often implied, but careful search is needed for its elucidation. The impression produced is that of an encyclopædia of historical and geographical facts, which the ordinary reader is more likely to use for casual reference than for continuous study.

A. J. S.

A GEOGRAPHICAL CALENDAR.

'Geographen-Kalender.' In Verbindung mit vielen Fachgenossen herausgegeben von Dr. Hermann Haack. Dritter Jahrgang, 1905-1906. Gotha: Perthes. 1905. *Maps and Portrait. Price 3.50m.*

The third issue of this useful handbook shows some further developments, bringing still nearer realization the aim of its originators to make it an indispensable work of reference for geographers throughout the world. Such it may certainly be considered, for all who have once made use of the information supplied by it in so handy a form would at once find themselves at a loss were the help thus afforded them withdrawn. Particularly useful, even in the first issue of the 'Kalender,' was the comprehensive list of geographers of all countries, with addresses, giving as it does information to be found in no similar publication. In the present issue this list has been largely extended, and includes not only the names of all who have in any way contributed to the progress of modern geography, but of many representatives of kindred sciences—geology, astronomy, economics, etc. A change of some importance has been made in the section treating of the literature of geography, which now takes the form of a simple bibliography rather than a review of the literature of the year. In this way it has been possible to make it far more comprehensive than before, the number of separate titles inserted being well over two thousand. The sections on exploration and events of wide political or international importance—both this time by Prof. Langhans—continue to give a concise but comprehensive survey of the events of most importance in these directions, being illustrated besides by an unusual number of maps. The first section, entitled "Kalendarium," adds a number of useful tables to those contained in former issues, including tables for the mutual conversion of metric, English, and Russian measures of length. The portrait now given is that of Prof. Reclus.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

Autumn Rainfall and Yield of Wheat in England.—Dr. W. N. Shaw, secretary of the Meteorological Council, has pointed out the close relation which seems to exist between the amount of rainfall in the autumn months (*i.e.* approximately September, October, and November) and the yield of wheat in England during the following summer. A preliminary note on the subject, which he is further investigating, was given in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* for April 10, 1905. An examination of the returns of rainfall and yield of wheat since 1884 for the "Principal Wheat-producing Districts" shows that the dryness of autumn is the dominant element in the determination of the yield of wheat of the following year. So much is this the case, that Dr. Shaw has been able to work out an

G 2