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Review

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REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.

'Régions et Pays de France,' Joseph Fèvre and Henri Hauser. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1909. 7 francs.

The student of French Geography is fortunate in the possession of a series of monographs, by specialists, issued in recent years, on various well-defined areas or districts in France. These studies vary greatly in length and in the importance assigned to different aspects of the subject, though the broad regional treatment is of much the same character throughout. So there is evidently room for a volume like the present, which combines and systematizes the conclusions of the specialists on a definite plan and within reasonable space. The book shows both the advantage and the defects of such a compilation. It is admirable as a guide to the geography of France in general, and is far from being superficial, since the authors had a wealth of material from which to draw. But the application of a uniform system to a great variety of regions does not permit of the due differentiation of the factors in geography which have a greater or less value according to the character of the particular area under discussion. Uniformity is gained only by the sacrifice of due proportion. Moreover, the treatment is necessarily less satisfactory for those districts, notably in the south and part of the centre, where less specialized material is available. None the less, the book is of great value as a guide to recent geographical work in France, and should be particularly useful to the teacher; much specialized work will be needed before England can be treated in the same way and with equal thoroughness. Its value is enhanced by the bibliographies at the end of each section, including references to maps and illustrations as well as texts. In one point the map references are open to criticism. The 1:1,000,000 geological map is given as the standard throughout; but it is impossible to verify many of the conclusions in the text from that map. In fact, for some purposes, even the 1:500,000 map is insufficient in scale. Illustrations and diagrams are abundant, clear and to the point.

A. J. S.

'Erosion of the Coast and its Prevention.' By F. W. S. Stanton. (London: St. Bride's Press. *N.d.* Pp. 68. *Plans.*) A concise hand-book to a subject which has lately attracted more than passing attention through the labours of a Royal Commission. The excellent diagrams have suffered the common fatality of over-reduction.

'Switzerland of the Swiss. By F. Webb. (London: Pitman. 1909. Pp. x., 254. *Illustrations.* 6s.) The title is presumably intended to convey that this volume deals, not with the narrow interests of the tourist, but with Switzerland as a State. The people, their industries, art, education, religion, and government are the principal topics of a useful work of reference.

'Wanderings in the Roman Campagna.' By Rodolfo Lanciani. (London: Constable. 1909. Pp. xiii., 378. *Map and Illustrations.* 21s.) A delightful volume by an author full of enthusiasm for all the interests of the Campagna, from its antiquities to its biology. But as those who know his work will expect, the antiquarian is his principal interest, and, as a geographical study, the contrast between the Campagna of the Empire and that of to-day is valuable. At the cost of great weight, the volume is beautifully illustrated.

'The Pyrenees.' By H. Belloc. (London: Methuen. 1908. Pp. viii., 340. *Illustrations and Maps.* 7s. 6d. *net.*) Mr. Belloc has written an excellent