

WILEY



Review: The Home Counties

Author(s): J. D. F.

Review by: J. D. F.

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indeed be terrible anarchy in China. These were some of the herculean task of reconstituting Chinese civilization.

Now in China there was no natural class of leaders, such as Japan had in the daimios and samurai. China in many ways was an exceedingly democratic country, and her leaders had to be drawn from the people themselves. The student class would have to provide the agents of reform. The autocratic form of government might be maintained, but Yuan Shih K'ai and his successors would have to rely upon the young men who were now being introduced to Western ideas and methods. For this reason the education of "Young China" was a matter of world-wide interest and importance. Its significance was, unfortunately, not at all realized in this country.

A discussion on "The Place of Map Tests in Examinations" was opened by Dr. J. F. Unstead. He considered five classes of such map tests. The first, where everything had to be drawn by the pupil, he considered undesirable. The second, where outline maps with coasts and latitudes and longitudes were given, and on which the rivers and towns, etc., had to be drawn, was better. The third kind, the outline map with coasts, rivers, etc., on which the candidate was asked to fill in the distribution of certain phenomena, he considered very desirable. The fourth type was a map which was filled in, and the candidates were asked to comment upon it as to explain certain things on it—this very admirable type was, unfortunately, rarely used. Finally, a sketch-map illustrating an answer might be asked for, in which the candidate was left to put in what he liked as long as he illustrated the answer. This also he considered good.

Rev. W. J. Barton, Headmaster of Epsom College, considered that the map was all-important in junior classes, but that when you came to seniors the question was more open to debate. Map tests might disappear in the senior examination. This point of view was called in question by many speakers, most of whom seemed to agree with Dr. Unstead, and all urged the necessity for giving maps which require description and explanation rather than outlines for filling in details.

There was also an important discussion on "The Value of Surveying in teaching Geography," in which Mr. Ernest Young, of the County School, Harrow, pointed out why he had insisted on surveying being made an important subject in his school. Methods adopted at this school were sketched by Mr. Richardson and Miss Moll. Most speakers agreed that if surveying could be thoroughly taught it was an excellent school subject, but there was some difference of opinion as to whether the mathematics or the geography master should teach it. The speakers agreed with Mr. Young that surveying was not geography, and that as far as possible no part of the time of geography masters should be diverted from his geographical work, for which he had too little time, by an attempt to teach surveying in hours allocated to geography.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

THE HOME COUNTIES.

'Geological Excursions round London.' By G. M. Davies. London: Murby & Co. 1914. Pp. 156. 3s. 6d. *net*.

THIS little book should prove a useful guide to the geology of the London area. Many of the best sections are described, and the directions for finding

them are given in sufficient detail to satisfy even those who are unfamiliar with the localities. The general treatment is designedly geological, but occasional anthropological and geographical notes add some human interest to the story of the Croydon Bourne, of the wind and water gaps of the North Downs, and to the descriptions of the views from the Addington Hills, Worms Heath, and Leith Hill. Excursions XVI.–XVIII. are almost purely geographical and will be useful to students of the English scarplands. It is interesting to note that a section at Upminster shows the most southerly exposure of boulder clay now visible in England. The book is illustrated by photographs, sketch-maps, sections, and a geological map of the south-east of England.

J. D. F.

ASIA.

THE LAST INDIAN CENSUS.

'The Census of India.' Vols. 1 and 2. By E. A. Gait, C.S.I., C.I.E. Calcutta: Superintendent of Government Printing. 5 Rs. or 7s. 6d.

The International Geographical Congress has devoted its attention on more than one occasion to the desirability of extending the census, in however simple a form, to tracts where the conditions do not allow of a detailed enumeration. The authorities in British possessions abroad have not lagged behind in this respect, and in the case of the outlying tracts of India their efforts at each succeeding census have resulted in the omission, in 1911, of none but a few mountain regions on the frontiers. The Indian census would stand out from other operations of this sort by reason of the magnitude of the numbers involved apart from other considerations, but, in the light thrown upon the figures by the admirable comment and analysis contained in this Report, it will be seen that the unique characteristic of the population of India is not its numbers so much as the variety of race, creed, language, and other social traits which it comprises, together with the marked differences in the physical conditions in which its life is passed. This is not the place, however, for touching upon the statistical aspects of Mr. Gait's review, which have received cordial recognition from experts here and in other countries. But those to whom the exposition of this almost overwhelming array of figures does not appeal will find ample compensation in the perusal of the first eighty or ninety pages of the Report, which deal with geographical features having a close and influential bearing upon the main factors of life in India.

The astonishing range of the variety to which reference has just been made is indicated briefly but clearly in these introductory pages. Geologically, for instance, India includes the most modern and some of the most ancient formations, with samples of most of those intervening between those periods. The soil varies, of course, accordingly. The great extremes of heat and cold in the north may be contrasted with the equable but intensely hot temperature which prevails in the peninsula. Over large tracts the annual rainfall is no more than 5 inches, whilst elsewhere it averages 300 inches or more. Nearly three-fourths of the inhabitants live by agriculture or pasture. The distribution of the population on the land, therefore, is in direct relation to the sum total of the physical conditions upon which those means of subsistence depend, that is, upon the configuration of the tract, its soil, and its water-supply. While, therefore, the administrative purposes which the census has to fulfil necessitate the grouping of the statistics by the artificial divisions of provinces and states, the natural divisions of the country have been judiciously