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It would be easy to adduce instances of the errors which have arisen from the neglect of such precautions. Perhaps one of the best known is that I have already alluded to, when James Bruce, a careful explorer, because he had made up his mind that the Blue Nile was the real Nile, passed the White Nile without taking the trouble to examine it, and recorded it as being a comparatively insignificant river. Then there was the case of Sir Samuel Baker, who, having reached the shores of the Albert Nyanza with great difficulty, relied too much on what he was told by the natives, and showed it on his map as extending many miles to the south of the equator. But great responsibility rests also upon those who have the task of compiling a map from the notes of an explorer, and the greatest care has to be taken to show only what is really known, and not what is uncertain. Geographers, whether in the field or in the drawing office, should always hold up before themselves a standard of accuracy higher than it is always easy to live up to.

Geography under its more ancient name of geometry is, of course, the mother of all sciences, although at the present time geometry has got a more narrow meaning, and is perhaps regarded by some as independent of geography, although really only a branch of it. The study of the Earth upon which they lived was to the ancient nations the most important of all studies, and it is interesting to trace how astronomy, mathematics, geology, and ethnology are all so interspersed with geography that it is difficult to separate them. It is satisfactory to note how from the very first the British Association has always recognized the great importance of geography, since the first meeting of the Association at Oxford in 1832, when Sir Roderick Murchison, so well known to fame, acted as President of the Geographical and Geological Section. These two sciences remained united in the same section until the meeting at Edinburgh in 1850, when Sir R. Murchison was again the President. But, at the next meeting at Ipswich in 1851, they were separated, and while Geology remained as the subject of section C, Geography, on account of its great importance, was made the subject of section E, and the science of ethnology was united with it. Sir R. Murchison was the first President of the new Geographical Section, and was afterwards President no fewer than six times of section E, showing the great importance attached by him to the study of the science of Geography. May I express the hope that the Presidents of the Section will endeavour in future to follow, however humbly, in the footsteps of that leader of science?

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF ICELAND.

W. von Knebel. *Island. Eine naturwissenschaftliche Studie.* (Nach einem begonnenen Manuskript, Notizen und Bildern des Verstorbenen bearbeitet, fortgeführt und herausgegeben von Dr. Hans Reck.) Stuttgart, 1912. Pp. v. and 290, 28 Pls., 1 Map. *Price 7s. 6d.*

ICELAND is a country of special interest to British geographers, as it is the chief link between the British Isles and Greenland and the Arctic regions, and as it shared in the early Cainozoic volcanic period which forms one of the most interesting chapters in the geography of Ireland and western Scotland.

The general geography of Iceland is best known from the prolonged investigations of Thoroddsen. His work on the volcanic history of Iceland has been supplemented by the valuable contributions of the late Dr. W. von Knebel, made with help from the Academy of Sciences of Berlin. This book was nearly completed before the author left in 1907 for the expedition to Iceland, during which he and his companion, the artist Rudloff, were lost on a small lake, which has been named the Knebelsee, in a caldron on Askja. They started to explore the lake in a small folding boat, but were never heard of again. Careful search was made by an expedition a year later, but no clue to the mystery of their disappearance was discovered. It is suggested that they were overwhelmed by a rock fall from the cliffs beside the lake.

The manuscript has been prepared by Dr. Hans Reck, who has been one of the most active investigators of Icelandic geology in recent years. It includes a tribute to Von Knebel by Prof. Branca.

Dr. von Knebel's book is, in the main, a general summary of Icelandic geography. It contains chapters on the exploration and discovery of Iceland, the history of the Icelandic people, and their literature, their present conditions, and the limited flora and fauna.

The largest part of the work is devoted to an account of the volcanic and glacial histories of Iceland. The summary of the geology is short and does not throw fresh light on the age of the fossil plants, on which depends the correlation of the Icelandic rocks and eruptions. The geological history of Iceland contains no pre-Cainozoic rocks, and the determination of the age of its older rocks depends on the age of some fossil plants which were described by Heer. The re-examination of this evidence by a competent expert would be very valuable, for the dates of the chief incidents are regarded by Thoroddsen as older than they are by some more recent students, such as Pjeturss.

The most important section of the work deals with the volcanic phenomena. The author describes the geysers and the geyser-fields, and these are illustrated by a series of excellent coloured plates after sketches by von Knebel. The geysers are, however, now so irregular, that the author himself did not see an eruption.

The chapter on fissure eruptions is of special interest. He regards them as normal eruptions from a line of vents, and not as due to the quiet non-explosive discharge of lava in sheets from a fissure, which was open to the surface for considerable distances. Iceland is traversed by two systems of subterranean fissures. Von Knebel therefore used the term "fissure eruption" very differently from its original meaning. The Icelandic volcanoes are apt to be very explosive, and the author describes an interesting series of explosion craters.

An appendix gives a list of the recent literature of Iceland and hints as to the best means and expense of travel. The book is illustrated by twenty-eight plates of excellent photographs and a sketch-map after Thoroddsen. The author adopts very moderate views on glacial erosion, and attributes the trough-shaped valleys largely to sub-glacial water, and the valleys themselves to water-erosion in pre-glacial or inter-glacial periods. The influence of marine abrasion in the formation of the surface of the plateaus is not forgotten. The book is an admirable introduction to the study of Icelandic geography, and shows that the author's tragic death has robbed science of a promising student.

J. W. G.

'Survey of Oxford.' By Rev. H. Salter. (London: Henry Frowde. 1912. Pp. 82. *Maps and Plans*. 2s.) The survey which is here printed, accompanied by a species of directory, is taken from a record in private hands, and

forms an interesting guide to the topography of Oxford, which has so much changed in detail even since the date of this eighteenth-century work.

'The Oxford Country.' Edited by R. T. Günther. (London: Murray. 1912. Pp. xvi., 319. *Illustration, Maps, and Diagrams.* 7s. 6d.) This volume consists of a series of articles which have appeared from time to time in the *Oxford Magazine*, the *Oxford Chronicle*, and elsewhere, by various writers, whose names will be well known to students of the special subjects with which they deal, on various aspects of the country surrounding Oxford—geology, history, botany, and zoology, all find a place among these articles, which attain a high literary standard and fully reveal the many attractions of this part of rural England. So many of the alumni of Oxford (not in the School of Geography alone) are ready to follow in the steps of these writers, that it is well that the collection should have been made with the affectionate care which has been bestowed upon it by its editor.

'The Tobermory Argosy: a Problem of the Spanish Armada.' By R. P. Hardie. (London: Oliver & Boyd. 1912. Pp. vii., 68. 1s.) The records of this well-known wreck of a vessel of the Spanish Armada, which lies in the Bay of Tobermory, and from time to time has been the scene of attempts to recover treasure from it, are here critically examined with results which treasure seekers, at any rate, will hardly view with satisfaction. It is an interesting endeavour, controverting in many respects others which have preceded it, to identify the ship exactly, and to trace the sequence of events which led to its disaster.

'Rambles in the Pyrenees and the adjacent districts.' By Hamilton Jackson. (London: Murray. 1912. Pp. xii., 419. *Illustrations and Plans.* 21s.) Mr. Jackson has here produced a very beautiful volume, in which the leading feature of both the text and the illustrations is the close architectural study of many of the most interesting buildings which survive in Pyrenean towns and the adjacent country. General description and history, however, of this district and these places are also to be found here. It may be added that the book is concerned, for the most part, with the French flank of the mountains.

'Santiago.' By G. C. Gallichan. "Mediæval Towns" Series. (London: Dent. 1912. Pp. xii., 332. *Illustrations, Maps, and Plans.* 4s. 6d.) This volume on the city of Santiago perhaps enters more closely into detailed description than others in the series which have recently come under notice, and from the point of view of those who visit or who are already acquainted with the city, it does not suffer on that account. The history, however, receives adequate treatment, and the study of the great pilgrimages for which the city was famous is full of interest, and the various buildings which are associated with them are closely described, as also are certain of the routes followed by the pilgrims. The volume, as usual, is copiously illustrated in accordance with the excellent standard of the series, from drawings by Mr. F. H. Mason in line, and with half-tones.

AFRICA.

FRANCE IN NORTH AFRICA.

'La Colonization Française dans l'Afrique du Nord: Algérie, Tunisie, Maroc.' By Victor Piquet. Paris: Librairie Armand Colin. 1912. Pp. 538. 6 fr.

In this comprehensive volume, M. Piquet continues his researches into the political history of what may be described as French North Africa, and describes very fully the development of Algeria, Tunis, and Morocco since the historic episode of the Fan. The commercial and economical expansion of these countries is dealt with by a sure hand, and though the book is no doubt of more value