
Review: New Issue of Huxley's Physiography

Author(s): J. S. F.

Review by: J. S. F.

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 25, No. 5 (May, 1905), pp. 559-560

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1776702>

Accessed: 08-06-2016 01:39 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

of very unequal interest. The best are those by Dall and Ulrich on the palæontological material collected by the expedition. Seven new genera and thirty-eight new species of invertebrates and plants are described and figured. Those from the Yukatat beds are specially interesting, and form a useful addition to the rapidly growing literature of Alaskan geology.

J. S. F.

THE GEOLOGY OF PARA.

'Grundzüge der Geologie des unteren Amazonasgebietes.' By Friedrich Katzer. Leipzig: Max Weg. 1903.

A work of this kind, giving a general account of the geology and surface features of an area extending over hundreds of thousands of square miles, must of necessity be of the nature of an outline sketch. Much of the country is covered by swamp, jungle, and forest, and consists of the alluvia laid down by the great river and its tributaries. These gravels, sands, and clays are sometimes auriferous, and carry large numbers of irregular concretionary blocks, which led Agassiz to formulate his striking but erroneous theory of the glaciation of Brazil in recent geological times. Flat-topped, steep-sided hills of Tertiary beds rise above the level of the plains, and rest with a marked unconformability on Permo-Carboniferous, Devonian, and older strata. The author's account of the little-known Devonian rocks of the Amazon valley is of special value. They are often steeply inclined, and are penetrated by dykes and sheets of diabase. The Silurian is known only on the south side of the river. Metamorphic schists and gneisses of various kinds, representing an Archæan floor, emerge at various points and occupy an enormous area along the headwaters of the northern tributaries.

The physical history of the Amazon valley is in some ways very remarkable. The palæozoic strata of the region are marine, the Tertiary beds are fresh-water, and Mesozoic rocks are almost unrepresented. This is interpreted by the author to mean that continental conditions have prevailed since the Permian, and, if this be the case, the area is one of very great stability. The principal uplift has apparently taken place to the east, as the oldest rocks may be traced in a great crescent extending across the river's mouth and passing backwards on each side, while the latest deposits are laid down along the centre of the basin. During the Tertiary epoch great lakes and streams occupied the surface, and at first probably drained westward to the Pacific, but as the Cordillera slowly rose the drainage was obstructed, and finally the course of the river was reversed. This is a very curious hypothesis, and not entirely in accordance with the work of other investigators of Brazilian geology, but the evidence in favour of it is given with great clearness, and deserves careful consideration.

Dr. Katzer's work is certainly a concise and valuable compendium of the subject on which it treats, and will be welcomed by all who are interested in the geology of South America.

J. S. F.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

NEW ISSUE OF HUXLEY'S PHYSIOGRAPHY.

'Physiography.' By T. H. Huxley. Revised and partly rewritten by R. A. Gregory. London: Macmillan & Co. 1904.

Huxley's 'Physiography' is a work so well known and, in a sense, so unique that the attempt to bring out a revised edition of it is sure to be watched with interest. The editor has had a difficult task, and we have only praise for the

manner in which it has been accomplished. By carefully retaining as much of the old fabric as possible, and incorporating such additional material as was necessitated by the advance of science, it has been brought abreast of the times, while it still retains the old lucidity of treatment. Surprisingly little modification has been needed in most of the chapters, and the only vital alteration is that what was intended to be a study of the Thames basin, which should appeal mainly to youths living in London, has been given a wider scope and made more suitable for general readers. In this some loss of directness was inevitable, and the new material introduced—principally a chapter on geological structures and their meaning—is hardly up to the old standard. The work has been slightly abridged by the excision of the less important allusions in the original edition, but this seems to us a positive improvement. A large number of process blocks have been introduced into the text. They are admirably chosen, and, for the most part, successfully reproduced, and need only to be compared with the old woodcuts to show how great are the advances in cheap book-making within the last twenty-five years. Very wisely, no attempt has been made to conform strictly to current syllabuses. In its new form the book will interest a large public and have an extended lease of life.

J. S. F.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

THE SOCIETY.

The Awards for 1905.—The Royal medals and other awards of the Society have been bestowed this year as follows: The Founder's Medal to Sir Martin Conway, for his explorations in various mountain regions and in Spitsbergen, prosecuted during a long series of years, and for the valuable contributions to geography resulting from those explorations in the form of papers, maps, and other publications; the Patron's Medal to Captain C. H. D. Ryder, R.E., for his survey of Yunnan carried out in 1899–1900 in association with Major H. R. Davies, and especially for the extensive and valuable work accomplished in connection with the recent Tibet Mission; the Victoria Research Medal to Mr. J. G. Bartholomew, for his long-continued services to British cartography, as shown particularly in the large atlases issued or planned by him, including the first volume of a great physical atlas, which will take a foremost place among works of its kind. Of the other awards, the Murchison Grant is given to Mr. William Wallace, C.M.G., for the great services rendered, directly or indirectly, to Geography during his service as an official in Northern Nigeria; the Gill Memorial to Colonel F. R. Maunsell, R.A., for his explorations in Asiatic Turkey, and for the large map he has compiled, largely from his own materials; the Cuthbert Peek Grant to Mr. Francis J. Lewis, for his valuable researches on the distribution of vegetation in the north of England, the results of which have been published in the *Journal*; and, lastly, the Back Grant to Captain Philip Maud, R.E., for his valuable survey work along the southern border of Abyssinia in 1903.