

WILEY



Review: Unconventional Travel

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problem." This is undoubtedly true, but it would perhaps assist more towards the financing of the project if the practical importance of at least one central geodetic chain were insisted on for the purpose of securing as a basis and backbone to all subsequent map-making in Eastern Africa. The determination of the Earth's figure is not the only, nor the most important, aim of this costly and lengthy class of triangulation. The enormous practical value of such a gigantic arc measurement is often apparently overlooked by its scientific advocates.

In this connection there is much interesting information on the subject of base measurements, and the care and labour which has been bestowed on securing the best possible instruments. The Jäderin method of measurement has not proved uniformly successful owing to the want of standardization, and the uncertain tension of the wires, but with the introduction of proper standards for comparison the extra rapidity which can be introduced into the process of base measurement by the use of this apparatus fully ensures its constant application in future. Ten bases were measured, either with the Jäderin or with a 100-metre steel tape, in the Nile series. An 8-inch micrometer theodolite was employed in this series, and the probable error in the observed angles is reckoned at 1.44 seconds.

Topography, lately, has been chiefly confined to compilation from large-scale mapping of the delta area.

In the meteorological and magnetic branches an immense amount of useful work has been done, as also in the geological section; and the river-gauging has resulted in valuable data regarding the Nile water-supply. It has been found, for instance, that the volume of water at Khartum (when the Atbara is not contributing) is greater than it is at Aswan (Assouan). How much of the diminished volume at Aswan is to be attributed to "seepage" (as suggested) is possibly open to question.

On the whole the report is one of which Captain Lyons may well be proud, for it is a great record of a most useful department thoroughly well organized and administered.

T. H. H.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

UNCONVENTIONAL TRAVEL.

'A Cruise across Europe.' By Donald Maxwell. London: John Lane. 1907.

Size 9 × 5½, pp. 254. Price 10s. 6d. net.

THIS delightful book is the record of a fresh-water voyage across Europe from Holland to the Black sea, in a small barge. The route taken was by way of the Rhine, Main, Ludwig canal, and Danube. Undoubtedly the most interesting part of the journey was the passage of the Frankischer Jura mountains by Charles the Great's Ludwig canal, with its hundred locks, the tolls for which worked out at the enormous sum of six marks for the lot. In this part of their trip the voyagers were literally sailing among the mountain-tops, and the experience was as interesting as it was unusual. The travellers met with numerous adventures, being at one time arrested as spies, and at another mistaken, by the unsophisticated peasants, for pilgrims to the Holy Land; but in spite of everything they safely reached their destination. The book is well written, and the author's really beautiful illustrations greatly add to its interest and attractiveness.