



Geographical Evolution

Die Entwicklung der Kontinente und ihrer Lebewelt; ein Beitrag zur vergleichende Erdgeschichte by Theodor Arldt

Review by: R. L.

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Hansen, in a boat voyage, had laid out a depôt at Cape Crozier, being absent forty days in August and September. On April 2, 1905, Hansen and Ristvedt started with two sledges and twelve dogs, provisioned for seventy days. Hansen's journey occupied eighty-five days, the return being on June 25. He crossed from Cape Crozier, the western point of King William island, to Victoria island, discovering some islets in the channel. Thence he advanced north to Collinson's furthest, and for some distance towards Wynniatt's furthest, on the west coast of Victoria island. The account of his journey is not the least interesting part of the book.

The voyage along the coast of North America presented no great difficulties, and, after a third winter, the little *Gjøa* entered the Pacific ocean. It was a memorable expedition. Well thought out and planned, no mistakes were made, and it is wonderful that so much could have been done by such a small handful of men. They were very ably led, and Amundsen was seconded by companions with rare gifts, whose zeal and enthusiasm never flagged. He and his gallant companions have achieved a great geographical feat, the memory of which will endure for all time. The work, in two volumes well illustrated, is worthy of the subject.

C. R. M.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL EVOLUTION.

Die Entwicklung der Kontinente und ihrer Lebewelt; ein Beitrag zur vergleichende Erdgeschichte.' By Theodor Arldt. Leipzig: W. Engelmann. 1907. Pp. xix. + 730. *Figs. and Maps.* Price 20m.

This volume is to be regarded in the main as a compilation in which the author has, with great industry and research, brought together the results of the researches conducted during the past quarter of a century by a number of investigators with regard to the former distribution of land and water on the surface of the globe, and the evolution of the form of our present continents. Several of the maps with which the volume is illustrated, so far as they relate to the contour of the continents in geological times, are mainly, if not entirely, based upon those of other writers, the one of the Jurassic epoch being, for instance, a replica from that in Neumayr's 'Erdgeschichte,' with certain emendations in the shading which do not appear to be an improvement. As regards the map of the world in the early Tertiary (Eocene), we notice that this differs from the one in Dr. von Ihering's work reviewed in an earlier page, in that Patagonia is represented as connected with the Marquesas and Samoa by a large extent of land, while "Archinotis" finds no place. In the map depicting the form of the continents in the later Tertiary, a noticeable feature is the presence of a land-bridge connecting Greenland with Iceland, the British Isles, and France, as to the existence of which at such a relatively late epoch we cannot but feel sceptical.

More than half of the work is devoted to the geographical distribution of animals, in which occur long tables of species arranged under such strange headings as "Lemmidenschicht," "Viverridenschicht," etc., the precise signification of which we confess ourselves unable to fully comprehend. This section is illustrated by several maps, which again present certain features (such as the alleged occurrence of *Cryptoprocitidæ* in the heart of Africa) by no means easy to understand.

While the book undoubtedly contains a vast store of information with regard to the past history of the Earth and its inhabitants, we venture to think that many of the author's conclusions and opinions should be compared with those of other authorities before being definitely accepted. This is notably the case with regard to the aforesaid connection between Greenland and France, such a

land-bridge having no existence—even in the Lower Eocene or Post-Cretaceous—in the series of maps by Prof. W. D. Matthew, illustrating the hypothetical outlines of the continents of the world in Tertiary times, published in the *Bulletin* of the American Museum of Natural History for 1906 (vol. 22, pp. 353–383).

R. L.

GENERAL.

THE STEREOSCOPE IN GEOGRAPHY TEACHING.

‘Geography through the Stereoscope’: (a) ‘Students’ Field Guide,’ pp. 362 and index. (b) ‘Teachers’ Manual,’ pp. 151. By Philip Emerson and William Charles Moore. London and New York: Messrs. Underwood & Underwood.

Both these volumes show a considerable amount of ingenuity and care in their compilation, and the authors have demonstrated the use of the stereoscope as a means of teaching geography. The results of experiments in two American schools are shown in a complete scheme dealing with the world, and it must be acknowledged that the method advocated would produce more realistic knowledge and rouse, in all probability, a livelier interest in the pupils. The claims made on behalf of the method are somewhat extravagant; it has frequently been applied by good teachers to the joint use of maps and pictures—the latter carefully selected—in this country. Being American in its outlook and designedly produced to advocate the more extended use of the stereoscope, one is apt to not entirely concur with the selection of the stereographs, since some of the subjects depicted in the list would be regarded here as dealing with interesting information rather than seriously studied geography. The treatment gives a good example of a method thoroughly worked through, and in that respect the two books are likely to be most suggestive to teachers who would doubtless apply it to their needs. The authors advocate working in groups varying according to the number in the class and the number of “groups” to be dealt with. Such class-room organization is not new, as is claimed. In addition to the set “groups” of stereographs, subsidiary sets are provided to be used for reference purposes. The ‘Students’ Field Guide’ affords a useful running commentary for each pupil on the sets of “graphs,” and contains many suggestive remarks and questions designed to bring out the fundamental geographical principles which they illustrate. The cost of the outfit would, however, be considerable, and no doubt further experiment will lead to the elimination of all such subjects as are not strictly geographical in aspect. The ‘Teachers’ Manual’ forms a running commentary as to method combined with a general geographical summary of the countries studied. There is no attempt to treat these regionally, and hence the method can only supplement real geographical classwork. If regarded as an attempt to devise some more systematic form of illustrating the geography lesson, the books must be considered ingenious, carefully prepared, and stimulating. Useful references for teachers’ or students’ reading are made throughout, mainly to American literature.

F. G. APHORPE.

A NEW LIFE OF COLUMBUS.

‘Christopher Columbus, and the New World of his Discovery.’ By Filson Young.
Two vols. 25s. net. E. Grant Richards.

In these two handsome volumes Mr. Filson Young has added one more to the many biographies of the great explorer, and has shown at least one of the qualifications for the heavy task, the possession of the pen of a ready writer. The work is avowedly an attempt “to bridge the immense gap existing between the labours of the historians and the indifference of the modern reader.” Unfortunately, some