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Review: Hints to Travellers

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As might perhaps be expected, this is essentially a German work, and by far the greater number of the firms of instrument makers are German. Still, this is not entirely the case, and since makers in other countries are included, it is surprising that the list is not more complete in this respect. For instance, nearly all the more important makers in this country are omitted from the general list, although the names of some incidentally appear in the list of scientific outfit of the Japanese government surveying ships. Again, as to instruments, there are some important omissions, such as the Lloyd-Creak magnetic instrument, from the list of instruments for magnetic observations. No reference is made to the plane-table, of which many forms exist, and which instrument is admitted by the best authorities to be specially suitable for rapidly filling in topographical features between fixed points on a survey. Amongst the apparatus for photographic surveying, it is surprising that the Bridges-Lee photo-theodolite, certainly one of the best, is omitted.

HINTS TO TRAVELLERS.

‘Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Beobachtungen auf Reisen.’ Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. G. von Neumayer. 2 vols. Third edition. Hanover: Jänecke. 1906. Price (vol. 1), 25m., (vol. 2), 24m.

If the geographical explorer of the present day fails to bring back valuable scientific results of his travels, or is at a loss to know how to preserve his health in the region he may visit, or what instruments he should take with him, it can hardly be due to the fact that no instructions have been published for his guidance; for apart from works dealing with special subjects, of which several have lately appeared, almost simultaneously with the new edition of this Society's ‘Hints to Travellers,’ a third edition of Dr. G. von Neumayer's ‘Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Beobachtungen auf Reisen’ has been published. Although both of these works are intended to furnish guidance for the intending travellers on scientific matters, the latter, since it now consists of two octavo volumes, each containing over eight hundred pages, is perhaps more fitted for previous careful perusal than to furnish practical hints in the field. Still, to many the bulk may not be a serious difficulty, and on important expeditions, the traveller acquainted with German would doubtless consider that the valuable information the ‘Anleitung’ contains far more than compensates for its weight and size.

The work is certainly most exhaustive and complete, and no less than thirty-two professors and experts have contributed articles on the particular branch of scientific inquiry which they have specially made their own. To give merely a brief notice of each of these would be impossible in these pages, and if any fault can be found it is that too much has been attempted for the purpose in view, and that the average traveller would have profited more if less had been given and the matter had been more condensed.

That the latest discoveries and results of the most recent investigations have been taken advantage of may be seen from a glance of such articles as that by Prof. S. Finsterwalder on “Photography as an Aid to Land Surveying;” Dr. G. von Neumayer and Dr. J. Edler's on “Magnetic Observations on Land;” the important notes on “Magnetic Observations on Board Ship,” by Dr. Friedrich Bidlingmaier; the article by Dr. W. Köppen on the “Use of Kites in Meteorological Observations;” and many others. A special interest attaches itself to the article on geology, inasmuch as it was the last work of the kind undertaken by its illustrious author, the late Baron F. von Richthofen.

Very properly, the opening section of the work, written by Herr P. Vogel, is devoted to fixing positions by astronomical observations; but considering the importance of this subject, and the amount of detailed information contained in many

of the others, this section is hardly so complete as might have been expected. In addition to bare statements of formulæ, it would have been an advantage to the ordinary explorer if more fully worked out examples of the computations had been given, and if matters such as telegraphic determination of longitude, and longitude by occultations of stars, had received more adequate attention. The astronomical section is followed by one on route-surveying and triangulation by Herr P. Vogel; and here again some important matters, such as plane-table surveying, and the more exact methods of computation of geodetic distances, have hardly received the attention they deserve. Still, both of these articles are good so far as they go, and those on nautical surveying and photographic surveying give valuable additional information on these matters.

In conclusion, Dr. von Neumayer may be congratulated on the publication of the third edition of this most useful work, and the amount of labour and pains-taking care which its venerable editor must have devoted to its supervision is decidedly remarkable, when it is remembered that he has now reached his eightieth year.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

The Peopling of Switzerland.—An article by M. Pierre Clerget in the *Bulletin* of the Belgian Geographical Society (1906, No. 2) on the peopling of Switzerland, gives a clear and detailed account of the relation between the geography of that land and its population. To its mountainous and therefore retired character, Switzerland owes its preservation of the Romansh language; to its central position, the fact of its having been peopled from prehistoric times. All the epochs between the ages of stone and of iron have been brought to light, and that not only in the lake dwellings of Geneva, Bienne, Zürich, and Constance, but also in the region of the sources of the Aar, Kander, Lutschine, Sarine, and Simme. Switzerland falls naturally into the regions of the Alps, occupying 59.1 per cent. of the total surface, the Jura 11.4 per cent., and the intermediate plateau 29.5 per cent. These three regions have each a distinctive density and character of population determined by its special geography. Its general elevation, however, assigns to Switzerland the rearing of cattle as its principal occupation. The vine is cultivated in Valais. In the Alpine valleys fruit trees, cereals, etc., grow, while industries, such as the working of marble, granite, and slate, exist. There is, moreover, abundant reserve of water-power, a factor of vast capacity, but its exploitation lies in the future. The characteristic employment, however, of Switzerland is cattle-rearing. That fact carries with it a wide dispersion of the population. The great longitudinal valleys are more populated than the much more narrow and abrupt lateral ones. The highest inhabited villages are in the Grisons. More than half the people of that canton live well above 3000 feet, two-fifths of them above 3800 feet. The great valleys bear on their slopes terraces due to glacier action. Where the terraces are well marked we find great administrative communes, often composed of many different centres. The physical factor seems to create political solidarity. Where, on the other hand, the terrace is absent, quite small groups constitute independent bodies. Everywhere alike, too, the sunny side is much more populated than the shady, and the dwellers in the former look down on those in the latter. Included in the interesting article is an account of nomadism, communism, "consertages," etc., all of geographical significance. A plate shows the migrations to and fro of the dwellers of Chandolin, between the Rhone valley and the Alps from January to December.