

# WILEY



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Review

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Empire produces two-thirds of the world's tin output. The only foreign countries of importance as tin producers are Bolivia, China, the Dutch East Indies, and Siam. It is a pity that these could not have been included, but we understand that considerations of bulk and space induced the publishers to defer treatment of foreign countries to a later volume, which we hope will be published before long. Mr. Penzer has done his work of compilation well, and produced a most useful book of reference—ample details of the occurrence, nature and working of all deposits, together with notes on the estates of the principal companies. There is a full bibliography arranged chronologically by continents. As a rule it begins with works published in 1910, but in some cases goes back to an earlier date. The sketch-maps are useful. R. B.

**The Gateways of Commerce.**— J. Fairgrieve and E. Young. London: G. Philip & Sons. 1921. Pp. viii. + 272. *Sketch-maps*. 3s. 6d. net.

This is the first volume in the New Era Library, which studies to give a wide general view of various important topics, unburdened with excessive detail. The present volume fulfils these requirements, being clearly written and assuming little if any previous knowledge on the part of the reader. The authors have been largely successful in their aim "to build up a picture of the world on its economic side," although they appear to regard economic geography as practically synonymous with the geography of commerce. Their outlook, however, is not narrow in their treatment of the subject, and they indicate the wide influences that affect the distribution of industries and the flow of trade. One or two statements are open to criticism. The argument relating the tea plant to a warm wet climate (p. 14) needs overhauling, and some revision might be suggested of the statement on p. 19 that the excess of labour has led the monsoon peoples to develop industries, such as the cultivation of rice, tea, and silk, in which that excess can most profitably be employed. The book is illustrated by over sixty sketch-maps, but we miss an index. The publishers deserve congratulation on the use of a clear bold type, which greatly facilitates reading. A cheaper edition in limp cloth is published at half a crown. R. B.

**Commercial Commodities.**— F. W. Matthews. Pp. 320. London: Sir I. Pitman & Sons. 1921. 12s. 6d. net.

The author has compiled a useful catalogue of commercial products with copious notes on their distribution and preparation. The book is really a condensed encyclopædia, arranged not alphabetically but genetically. It does not aim to be exhaustive, but is certainly most informative and commendably accurate. A very short introduction explains the various methods of preserving organic substances in commerce. As a book of reference it should prove useful to teachers and others. R. B.

## THE MONTHLY RECORD

### EUROPE

#### The Dune-belt of Belgium.

LIKE the neighbouring parts of Holland and France, the coast of Belgium is fringed throughout its length by a belt of dunes, widening in places to a breadth of 1500 or 2000 metres, and in others narrowing to one of only 12 to 15 metres, the mean height being about 20 metres. A study of this tract from the point of view both of the physical formation and of the life of its inhabitants is