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Review: Himalayan Exploration

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fordshire Natural History Society and Field Club, a descriptive catalogue of all maps of Hertfordshire from 1579 to 1900, which were to be found in public or in private libraries. So far as Hertfordshire is concerned, the requirements of the King's printer of 1626 have been amply satisfied, and the way is now clear for any other geographical enthusiast to make a similar list for any other county, English, Scottish, Irish, or Welsh.

Mr. Fordham gives bibliographical and biographical notes to each map entered, and there are copious indexes, giving the chief works of reference, an alphabetical list of titles of all atlases and maps, and of the names of all authors, engravers, and publishers. For a similar undertaking in English, we must go back as far as the year 1780, to Richard Gough's 'British Topography,' issued in two volumes, an excellent work, and the mainstay of every geographical curator. In France and Germany we find eminent geographical bibliographers, but nothing quite to equal the achievements of Mr. Fordham in a difficult and untrodden field. Geographical bibliography is, unfortunately, in England neglected by the Bibliographical Society, and there is no provision by the State for the uniform publication of classified bibliographies of maps. In America, when any political question arises, the Library of Congress publishes a special catalogue of maps in their map collection, and of books in their library.

In England, vast as the Empire is to-day, there exists no staff, nor any funds for this purpose, even at the British Museum, which, beyond question, contains the largest and the finest collection of atlases and maps in the whole world. The 'British Museum Catalogue of Printed Maps' was printed in 1885, a quarter of a century ago, but is sadly incomplete, and at times inaccurate. A second edition, recording the title, engraver, scale size, and publisher of each atlas and map, would be of the highest value to every library and geographical student throughout the civilized world. The 'Museum Catalogue of Manuscript Maps' has not advanced beyond volume 3, published in 1861, nearly half a century ago, and there is no alphabetical record of the manuscript maps acquired between 1861 and 1907, and there is actually no index of draughtsmen, artists, or places to volumes 1-3 (1844 to 1861). The Museum Catalogue of the maps, plans, and views which have strayed to the Department of Prints is not yet published, but, in any case, the collecting of printed maps by two departments of a national museum must be very costly to the poor tax-payer.

The British Museum will next year celebrate the 150th anniversary of its foundation. A printed catalogue of all its cartographical treasures would form a fitting memorial of an historical event which has conferred upon its promoters a claim to a more lasting and peaceful fame than they ever anticipated in those times of almost universal war, when the heroic struggles of General Wolfe had not yet culminated in the final glory of the heights of Abraham.

It is to be hoped that the success of Mr. Fordham in the almost untrodden paths of county bibliography will lead others to follow in his footsteps, and we shall look forward with equal pleasure, and we hope profit, to his exhaustive work on the maps of the county over whose council he so ably presides.

## ASIA.

### HIMALAYAN EXPLORATION.

'Ice-bound Heights of the Mustagh.' By Dr. and Mrs. Workman. London: A. Constable & Co. 1908. *Maps and Illustrations.* Price 10s. net.

On first opening this book the excellence and fulness of the illustration immediately strike the eye. The photographs, over 170 in number, and some of

them charmingly coloured, are not merely illustrative of the text, but have been taken by a photographer who knew how to choose his point of view, and how to select his subject. With hardly an exception they are sharp and clear, and the process work has likewise been admirably done. Not only is this true of the views of great mountains, but also of the little bits in the valleys, such as the admirable rose-tree among rocks on p. 11. In cases where figures are introduced, the moment chosen is when the grouping of them is either very fortunate (as in the glacier caravan, p. 97) or admirably arranged (as in the raft scene, p. 37).

The authors have now devoted five long seasons to the exploration of the mountains of the kingdom of Kashmir. Their work has been in a high degree laborious, and their accomplishment considerable. They have made detailed surveys of good quality of many parts of these most intricate ranges. They have repeatedly reached very high altitudes, and they have added largely to our knowledge of what is perhaps the most notable mountain region in the world. From time to time they have given account of their doings in papers read to our society, and published in the *Journal*, so that there is no occasion here to repeat in briefer form what has already been set forth at more length in these pages.\*

The present volume is devoted to the doings of two seasons, 1902 and 1903. In the former year they made the first thorough exploration of the recesses of the Chogo Lungma (glacier). In the latter they explored the interesting Hoh Lumba, and then returned to continue work on the Chogo Lungma. The important and interesting map which accompanies this volume is the best evidence of what they accomplished. It enables every step of their way to be followed as described in the text, and it transforms the queer-looking region of the old map into a consistent mountain and glacier system. In one corner of the map a curious "cornice glacier" is marked, apparently surrounded by cols and peaks, with no outlet anywhere. This is of course impossible. The glacier is a tributary of the Biafo, as no doubt it is intended to appear, and its hollow is in fact the real continuation of the depression in which the Biafo lies, the great gap east of it, through which Snow lake drains, having been broken down in the process of time by an overflow from that great ice-reservoir, which formerly discharged itself down the Hispar glacier. The west ridge of the Kailasa peak is easily seen from all the upper part of the Hispar glacier to be a continuation of the ridge that looks down upon that glacier's south bank. Lovers of mountain literature will find plenty to interest them in the text of this carefully prepared volume.

MARTIN CONWAY.

## AFRICA.

### THE EASTERN DESERT OF EGYPT.

A Preliminary Report on the Geology of the Eastern Desert of Egypt between Lat. 22° N. and 25° N.' By W. F. Hume. Survey Department, Cairo. Paper No. 1. 1907. 72 pp., 5 pl., 4 maps. *Price* 150 *millièmes*.

The recent resumption of mining in the Nubian desert has aroused fresh interest in the geological structure and geography of the region lying to the south-east of Egypt between the Nile and the Red sea, and we owe to Dr. W. F. Hume, of the Geological Survey of Egypt, an important contribution to the knowledge of that area. The result of his surveys are now issued on two topographical and two geological maps on the scale of 1 to 500,000, a plate of sections showing the main features in the structure of the country, and a valuable preliminary report of seventy-two pages. The area described in the report includes the sites of some

\* *Journal*, vol. 25, p. 245; 27, p. 129; 31, p. 12.