
Review

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GENERAL.

A SUPPOSED CAUSE OF GLACIAL PERIODS.

'The Zonal-Belt Hypothesis: a New Explanation of the Cause of the Ice Ages.'

By Joseph T. Wheeler. Philadelphia and London: I. B. Lippincott Co. 1908.

Price \$2.50 net.

In this book we have one more speculation as to the cause of Glacial periods. It is supposed by the author that the Earth has been girt with a combination of Saturn-like rings and Jupiter-like belts of impalpable matter, which profoundly affected the climate of the lands lying beneath. These conditions are held to have persisted into times so geologically recent that they were experienced by early man, and have afforded the basis of many of his myths. The statement and interpretation of these myths, and incidentally a new torturing of Genesis under the old plea of "reconciliation," fill the major portion of the book.

Evidently the product of meditation and much reading, the volume, like many of its class, is largely a miscellany of long quotations from all sorts of authors; and it contains verses which are sometimes transparently original. We do not think that it will be regarded as a solution of the problem dealt with. It may, however, interest the reader who can tolerate an ingenious argument imaginatively presented.

G. W. L.

GEOGRAPHICAL PICTURES.

'Philips' Geographical Pictures.' Edited by P. H. L'Estrange. G. Philip & Son, 32, Fleet Street, London. The set of 20 Plates, 21s.; single plates, 1s. 3d.

It is an encouraging sign of progress in the teaching of geography when publishers venture upon the considerable expense of bringing out a series of plates, illustrating geographical features, with the hopeful expectation of getting their money back and something more by sales to schools. Time was, and not so very long ago, when geography was taught without these helpful illustrations. Now several series of plates are to be had, among which the handsomest are the coloured 'Geographische Characterbilder,' published by Hölzel of Vienna; while the newest series of the kind, consisting of twenty plates, 20 by 14½ inches, reproduced from photographs, has lately been prepared by P. H. L'Estrange, assistant master at Malvern College, and published in black and white by G. Philip & Son, London. The series includes thirteen plates, entitled "Land-forms," with sub-headings, "Sedimentary rocks, volcanic work, ice work, river work," and seven plates entitled "Climate and Vegetation." Many of the plates are of fine pictorial quality, and are well printed, so that they may serve a decorative as well as an instructive purpose in schoolrooms. Each plate has a title: for example, No. 7, Volcanic work, a crater; No. 10, Ice work, a glacier; No. 12, Antarctic views, iceberg; No. 20, Sugar culture. Underneath is a brief text giving the locality of the view, some explanation of its leading features, and a few questions by which pupils will be led to study the more important features of the picture. There can be no doubt that the intelligent use of this series of illustrations in schools will prove enlivening and instructive.

In certain respects one might wish that the text of the plates gave a somewhat different direction to the pupils' attention. For example, under the general heading "Land-forms," an excellent example of cliffed headlands is given from near Flamborough head; but its sub-title is "Sedimentary rocks—flat rocks (worn by the sea)." Sea-cliffs would have been a better name, as calling immediate attention to the most striking land-form that the plate represents; the explanation and the questions would, better than the title, direct attention to the structure on which, and to the agency by which, the form was produced. In No. 9, attention is diverted

almost entirely away from land-form and turned to land-structure by the emphasis given to the occurrence of basalt intersecting and overlying chalk, and by the questions, which are chiefly directed to matters of the geological past rather than to the geographical present. "Sedimentary rocks" does not stand well as a sub-title in the same rank with volcanic work, ice work, and river work; and under "Land-forms—ice work," an excellent picture of a floating iceberg seems out of place. In a few cases, the pictures are not well chosen: in No. 6, Land-forms; sedimentary rocks—folded mountain and glacier," the rocks do not show a "folded mountain," but only one limb of a fold; and only a small part of a "glacier" is visible, from which no good idea of a glacier can be gained. As is often the case in such pictures, erosion has no mention in the title, although it is quite as important an element as folding in determining the mountain form. "No. 3, Land-forms, flat rocks (river-worn)," is an excellent picture of a waterfall, taken from a point where the reach above the fall is not seen; but for purposes of instructing the uninformed, a picture showing the upper reach and the lower reach with the waterfall between them would have been much more helpful. No. 4, an excellent picture of Church Rock, near Clovelly, gives too much importance to a small and exceptional rock-form, and might be replaced to advantage by a more general view. As a whole, the pictures themselves are better than the plan of selection or the accompanying text.

W. M. D.

SHORT NOTICES.

Europe.—'The Origin of Kingston-upon-Hull.' By J. Travis-Cook. (London: Brown & Sons. 1909. Pp. x., 68. *Map*. 2s.) This is one of those volumes which find their chief attraction in the obvious enthusiasm of the author for his subject, and the care which he has bestowed on its elucidation. The story of the origin of this great port, which in unofficial usage has curiously taken the name of the river on which it lies, is full of interest.

'Galicia, the Switzerland of Spain.' By Annette M. B. Meakin. (London: Methuen. 1909. Pp. xi., 375. *Map and Illustrations*. 12s. 6d.) We are safe in expecting a valuable volume from Miss Meakin on any country she visits, and in the present case she has even exceeded expectation. Her works are not merely the result of observation alone, but of genuine study combined with observation; and in matters relating to the history and archæology, no less than to the scenic and human picturesqueness of this north-western corner of Spain, her volume will form a most valuable guide. All the photographs are good; many exceptionally so.

'Through Bosnia and Herzegovina with a Paint Brush.' By Mrs. E. R. Whitwell. (London: Simpkin Marshall. 1909. Pp. 76. *Illustrations*.) The text of this volume can only be described as "slight." The coloured reproductions of paintings are of somewhat unequal merit, but some are charming, particularly the scenes in towns: in landscape the artist is far less successful.

'Madeira Old and New.' By W. H. Koebel. (London: Francis Griffiths. 1909. Pp. xvi., 216. *Maps and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) The "old" section of this book contains a number of historical sketches, mostly of a picturesque and strictly local character. They afford a clear conception of the island in early times. This section as a whole is superior to the "new," in which a good part of the matter is not of much greater interest than that in the guide-books, though it reveals an intimate knowledge of the island. Of the many photographs, those are most noteworthy which reproduce atmospheric effects; many have suffered from indifferent reproduction.

Asia.—'Travels in the Island of Cyprus.' Translated from the Italian of Giovanni Mariti by C. D. Cobham, c.m.g. (Cambridge: University Press. 1909.