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Review: Phytogeography of Belgium

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of the sand being taken, what I did was this: in dealing with sand which was composed of mixed particles, I always timed a silicious particle, thus all the grains of sand which I have referred to in the tables are either quartz or flint, which is practically the same density.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

PHYTOGEOGRAPHY OF BELGIUM.

'Esquisse de la Géographie botanique de la Belgique.' Par Jean Massart. Avec une annexe contenant 216 phototypies simples, 246 phototypies stéréoscopiques, 9 cartes et 2 diagrammes. Extrait du 'Recueil de l'Institut botanique Léo Errera,' Tome supplémentaire VII. bis. Bruxelles: 1910.

THE two volumes before us form a monograph on the vegetation of Belgium of the greatest interest to both botanist and geographer. It is most complete, and could well serve as a model for work in countries where the efforts of the different workers have not as yet been brought together in one book. It will not be long, we may hope, before a work on similar lines is published in our country. The author first gives an account of the past geology of the soil, and then discusses at length the various present-day conditions by which plants are surrounded and which influence plant-life. To these belong the climate and the soil. But the book is chiefly devoted to an analysis of the principal types of plant associations and an examination of the geobotanical districts. The former differ but little from those met with in the neighbouring countries. Though Belgium is not a large country, it can show all the types of vegetation except those of the highest hills and a few others. The climate is naturally more oceanic on the west coast, and becomes more continental towards the east. Subalpine plants are found on parts of the Ardennes. The near relation of Belgium to the neighbouring countries is well illustrated by the fact that of the higher plants, only one species, *Bromus arduennensis*, is found exclusively in Belgium. But much work has still to be done among the lower plants, the importance of which, from a geographical point of view, is not yet properly appreciated. Nearly all the plants found in Belgium to-day have come into the country since the last glacial epoch. There are only a few remnants of the glacial epoch now growing on the chalk in the highest portions of the country. The lowlying westerly districts have got their plants from the south-western regions of Europe, whilst the higher districts owe their flora mainly to central Europe. The first volume has at the end a Bibliography which contains a pleasing reference to numerous ecological books. The second volume is devoted entirely to photographs as illustrations of the first one. Many of these photographs are really very good, but many of them might have been left out. On the whole, however, the author must be congratulated on having produced a really valuable phytogeographical monograph.

O. V. D.

NORTHERN ALBANIA.

'Albanien und die Albanesen: Landschafts u. Charakterbilder.' By Paul Siebertz.

This book records some short journeys through the mountains of Northern Albania, but is chiefly valuable for the notes on the history, social customs, and character of the Albanians themselves, a very interesting people, one of the oldest of European races. The historical notes especially claim to be the fullest