



## Recent Publications

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### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**EARTH FEATURES AND THEIR MEANING**, by W. H. Hobbs, Professor of Geology at the University of Michigan. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1912. \$3.00.

The new book by Professor Hobbs is given the sub-title: "An Introduction to Geology," and the impression obtained is distinctly that the volume is an introductory textbook of geology. As a matter of fact it is largely physiography with a geological emphasis. It contains nothing in regard to stratigraphy, historical geology and paleontology. A few of the titles of the thirty-one chapters will give a conception of the contents of the book. They follow:

- The Figure of the Earth.
- The Rocks of the Earth's Surface Shell.
- Contortions of the Strata within the Zone of Flow.
- The Interrupted Character of Earth Movements.
- The Rise of Molten Rock to the Earth's Surface.
- The Attack of the Weather.
- The Life Histories of the Rivers.
- The Travels of the Underground Water.
- The Features in Desert Landscapes.
- The Glaciers of Mountain and Continent.
- The Uplift of the Land at the close of the Ice Age.
- A Study of Lake Basins.
- The Origin and Forms of Mountains.

The volume is remarkably well written and is easily apprehended by those who have no previous knowledge of science. It should be very useful to students of geography as well as those interested in an elementary knowledge of geology.

A. N. W.

**GENERAL AND REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY**. By J. F. Unstead and E. G. R. Taylor. xii+516 pages. 133 diagrams and sketch maps. George Philip and Son, Ltd., London, 1911, 6 shillings. 8½x5½.

The authors are English lecturers in geography, of collegiate rank. The book is sufficiently advanced for use in college classes, or in higher classes in normal schools. There is no American book of similar kind. Gregory, Keller and Bishop's *Physical and Commercial Geography* approaches nearest to it but differs materially.

The English book really comes nearer to satisfying the recommendations of the committee of the Association of American Geographers, made at the Boston meeting in 1909, than any American book that appeared prior to Dryer's *High School Geography*.

One half of the volume is given to World Geography, or General Geography. An American is impressed by the small amount of space given to land forms and physiographic processes—only one chapter in all. Such topics as Weathering, Stream Erosion, Glaciers, the Glacial Period, and Wind Work are dismissed with a half page or a little more each, while our texts usually give a chapter to each. The Atmosphere and Climate receive four chapters, while the Distribution of Life Forms, Peoples and Industries get four more. What we usually mean by Physiography, receives but scanty treatment.

Part II, Regional Geography, attempts to say something—often very little—about almost every country on the globe. Over half of Part II is devoted to Europe and more space is given to the British Isles than to North and South America combined. The maps are black and white, are employed chiefly to show distribution and have a crude appearance. Like nearly all English text books, this one has not an attractive look. The book has, nevertheless, a great deal of genuine merit. Its style is simple and it contains the kind of geographical information that people need. It lays emphasis on causal relations; explains as well as describes. It attempts to do too much, however, for it is impossible to say something about every one of the countries of the earth and the main colonies of European nations in 250 pages, and not have a scrappy treatment. This quality of scrappiness characterizes practically all of our own regional geographies. We must get away from it if we desire to do more than store the memory for a day with disconnected facts. It is doubtful if the book will serve American needs, primarily because of the short treatment accorded the Americas, but it does offer some excellent suggestions to our textbook makers, and for a general elementary course in college it might prove pretty satisfactory if supplemented with a fuller treatment of our own country.

RABENORT'S GEOGRAPHY. By William Rabenort. 2 Vols.; Europe, viii.+231 pp. North and South America exclusive of the United States, viii.+230 pp. American Book Co., 1912. 50 cents per volume.  $8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ .

Dr. Rabenort is a public school principal in New York City. He says: "Geography is conceded to be an eclectic subject" and that in his books he includes those facts of history, biography, art, science, travel and general information which have distinct geographical aspects and which are commonly regarded as fundamental to general culture. The emphasis is on the human, not on the physical side of geography. Questions are freely introduced; the maps are necessarily small but they are clear; the illustrations are good; and the small size of the volumes makes them easy to handle. In general plan, the books are a return to the informational type which geographers have been trying to replace by a rational treatment of

geographic facts. There is the same effort to condense and compress many facts into small space, that is quite commonly found in elementary texts. An effort to point out causal relations is here and there apparent but the "compressing" process prevents much success in this direction. The books are written in admirably natural and simple English, and present a pleasing appearance, but they do not mark any forward step in the field which they cover.

COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY, GENERAL AND REGIONAL. By J. F. Unstead and E. G. R. Taylor. viii.+238 pp. 25 sketch maps. George Philip & Son, London, 1911, 2 sh., 6 pence.

Based upon the larger *General and Regional Geography* by the same authors. The book, in appearance and mechanical make-up, has the usual characteristics of English geographical textbooks,—small size, narrow margins, opaque and unglazed paper, sketch maps and free use of bold-face type for purposes of emphasis. Ten per cent. of the space is given to Part I, Climate, Vegetation and Natural Regions; twenty per cent. to Part II, Industries and Products, and the rest to Part III, Regions of the World. The book is for use in schools of the British Empire and naturally stresses the geography of the British Isles and colonies. Germany receives 6 pp., Russia 5, the United States 9 and Japan 2. Geography is considered to be concerned primarily with "distributions". The causal idea is recognized but can not be emphasized in the limited space. The constant use of an atlas is advised and expected; the book contains no colored maps. Statistics are avoided, diagrams, curves and other graphic methods of showing quantitative facts are omitted. It has the virtue of compactness and rational treatment but for American schools would not do so well as our own modern commercial geographies.

LABORATORY EXERCISES IN PHYSIOGRAPHY. By James H. Smith, Ira W. Stahl and Marion Sykes, of Chicago High Schools. 45 EXERCISES. Boards. Sheets perforated for removing and binding. Size, 8x10 inches. D. C. Heath & Co. 1912.

Physiography has quite generally been looked upon as the most suitable of the sciences for the first year of the high school. Its friends have always maintained that it can not be satisfactorily taught without systematic laboratory work. Laboratory manuals have appeared from time to time and have met with varying degrees of acceptance. The authors of this manual have excellent qualifications for preparing a laboratory course suited to high school pupils, for they are in daily contact with such pupils. They have done the work well. The exercises are reasonably simple, are interesting in themselves, do not call for much costly material, are well dis-

tributed over the field, introduce a goodly number of "human" and economic relationships and outline four typical field trips. The atmosphere and climate, and studies of topographic sheets make up somewhat over half of the work. The manual ought to prove thoroughly usable in city high schools, for it is sane and reasonable in what it demands.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY. By Albert Gallaway Keller, and Avar Longley Bishop, of Yale University. 357 pages, 8 vo. Cloth, \$1.00. Ginn & Co., 1912.

We have here a book written for use in the seventh and eighth grades, by two university professors. A reviewer at once looks to see if the authors have either "written down" to the pupils or have shot over their heads. One or the other might be expected, but neither seems to have occurred. The style is straight-forward and natural. The material is specific, full of interesting details, and organized upon a definite plan, but one can not help wondering if it ought to be called a *geography*. Strictly geographical relationships are notably subordinated to the economic and social relationships of industry and commerce. Perhaps the latter are more vital and more appealing. They are certainly more interesting than discussions of slopes, drainage, prevailing winds, etc, but some parts of the book get quite a-field from geography. The book discusses man's chief needs—food, shelter, and clothing—and shows how they are supplied. A few representative industries are treated in considerable detail, including rubber, wheat, flour and cotton. The industrial regions of the United States and of the world are accorded a chapter each. Distribution, methods of transportation and of manufacture receive considerable attention. Sets of review questions are grouped at the back of the book. There is only one colored map. Sketch maps are fairly numerous. The chief weakness of the book as a *geography* for the grammar grades is its lack of attention to definite place—or locational—geography. The old text books gave too much space to this. The present tendency is to give too little. The book has so many excellencies that its omissions ought not to be emphasized.

HIGH SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY, PART III., Regional Geography. By Charles R. Dryer. Bound with Parts I and II, to make 536 pages. American Book Co. 1912. \$1.30.

Parts I and II appeared some months ago and were reviewed in this Journal in June, 1912. Part III adds fifteen chapters on Regional Geography and makes a complete book for a full year's course. Part III is the most radical departure from old lines yet made in high school geography and the departure is not an unwelcome one. The author divides the earth into some 45 regions, representing fourteen types of climate, grouped under five general heads, viz.: (1) Intertropical, (2) Subtropical and Warm Temperate, (3) Temperate and Intemperate, (4) Cold Temperate, (5) Polar Provinces. The classification of the earth's kinds of cli-

mate under fourteen types is necessarily a matter of the author's personal judgment and may or may not meet with general endorsement. It is doubtful if any two persons, working independently, would hit upon the same classification. Professor Dryer's classification is sane and logical and seems to work out well. The division of the earth into climatic provinces is better than a division into physiographic provinces, although physiography plays a distinct part in Dryer's classification.

Geographers will find plenty of points to differ on, when it comes to blocking off the earth into the forty-five or any other number of subdivisions. For example, the author combines in one region the Mississippi valley, the Appalachian highland and the Atlantic seaboard, calling it the Mississippian Province. Placing North Dakota, Oklahoma, the Carolinas and New England in the same natural region is unusual, but it illustrates the difficulty of establishing fixed boundaries for natural provinces.

Prof. Dryer has set out to blaze a new trail; he has had the courage to do something that seems counter to tradition; and every geographer ought to give him credit for this courage rather than criticise details.

His Regional Geography abounds in paragraphs and sections filled full of interesting matter, some of the very best being the illustrations or supplementary paragraphs in small type. The introduction of scores of these highly interesting and informing paragraphs shedding light upon the life of the people in many parts of the world, terse yet rich in pertinent details, is one of the finest features of the book, and is an encouraging sign of better days in high school geography.

ELEMENTS OF GEOGRAPHY. By R. D. Salisbury, H. H. Barrows and W. S. Tower. ix+616 pp., 7 colored maps, 443 figures. Henry Holt & Co., New York. 1912. 12 mo.

This is the second of the text books in humanized geography to appear within a few months. The authors say in their preface, "The book has been written with the belief that the chief object in geography teaching should be the preparation for citizenship." Good! A little further on, "All rational work in general geography must be founded on physiography." Good! again. This is exactly what we want in geography; exactly what we have been asking for. The book is "elementary" only from the college standpoint. Its style is admirably simple and clear, but the subject-matter has a mature quality that seems to indicate that the authors intend it for advanced high school classes, or even more mature students.

Pure physiography forms only a minor part. The atmosphere and climate are treated at considerable length, receiving 175 pages. Much economic geography is introduced, dealing with soils, minerals, water-powers, waterways, harbors, and the distribution of population, industries and cities. The chapters on The Use and Problems of Inland Waters, on Mountains and Life, and Life in Plains, are the kind of stuff that makes the

red blood of geography. Sets of questions, not based upon the text but calling for thought, are placed at the end of each chapter. They are good and ought to be used. The Geography of the United States is well covered. Foreign countries receive little attention. The book might be summarized as treating of the principles of geography with particular application to the United States. Books of this type will put new life into a study that has been losing ground in the secondary schools. A new epoch in American school geography is beginning and this book will be one that will mold our new courses.

### TRENTON, N. J., EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

#### SIXTH GRADE

*One part of question I and question II, compulsory... Answer eight others.*

1. a. Briefly describe the production of rubber; conditions of growing; method of gathering; exporting city.  
Name a city of the United States noted for the manufacture of rubber goods, or
- b. Write a short story of coffee
  - (a) Conditions necessary for growth
  - (b) How plants are cared for and by whom
  - (c) When and how long trees produce
  - (d) How prepared for market
  - (e) Mention principal coffee ports.
3. a. Compare North and South America with regard to size and shape.
- b. Which of the two continents has the more good harbors? Why?
4. Locate these cities and tell why they are important: Rio Janeiro, Para, Montevideo, Iquique, Valparaiso.
5. a. In what heat belts and hemisphere is South America?
- b. Which country of South America has the brightest prospects for future growth? Why?
6. a. Where in South America is there a desert region?
- b. What causes it?
7. Compare the surface of South America with that of North America.
8. a. Name the productive divisions of South America.
- b. Which is the most productive region?
9. Describe the people of South America in regard to races and languages.
10. Name the countries of South America and tell the form of government of each.
11. Give an account of the Panama Canal.
  - (a) Who began its construction?
  - (b) Why necessary to build it when a railroad already crosses the