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The Lake of Geneva by Frederick Treves

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**The Lake of Geneva.**— Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., G.C.V.O., C.B., LL.D., Sergeant-Surgeon to his Majesty the King. *With a Map and 100 Illustrations from Photographs by the Author.* London: Cassell & Co. 1922. 25s. net.

This attractive volume contains relatively little for the geographer. In Sir F. Treves' pages and pictures landscape serves chiefly as a background to the human homes and interests it frames. He gives us here the fruits of an industrious holiday, spent partly in visiting and photographing the prim little towns or picturesque chateaux that cluster along the shores of Lake Lemán, partly in picking up among the handbooks in the library of the Baths of Evian scraps of local story and legend. It would have been well had he been content to make full use of the material thus acquired. But his leisure, or his energy, has led him to attempt to link with it a topographic description of Geneva, and to dip into the numerous volumes dealing with the great names connected with the town for scattered anecdotes. These occupy a disproportionate space, yet neither is complete. In his walk through Geneva he passes by the finest house in the town, the De Saussure mansion in the Rue de la Cité, where Napoleon lodged in 1800, and the old buildings of the Collège, and he makes no mention of the Academy which attracted so many of our countrymen in the years before the French Revolution. The list of celebrities is sadly incomplete, and in that, oddly enough, on the medical and scientific side he omits the great doctor of the eighteenth century, Tronchin de Saussure and De Candolle. Nor have these personal sketches been united by any historical framework. The reader looks in vain for any outline of the story of Geneva. He will learn nothing here of its religious struggles and its political disorders, of its singular and precarious position as an outpost of republicanism, wedged between France and Savoy, and dependent for its existence on the support of three of the Swiss cantons. Sir Frederick tells, it is true, the story of the famous Escalade at some length, but it is as an unconnected episode.

It is not our business here to do more than point out the shortcomings indicated. This volume will interest and attract travellers mainly as a sumptuous guidebook. The charming collection of photographs will suggest objects for their excursions to visitors to Geneva or Evian; the romantic tales or legends the author recounts connected with the castles and shrines round the lake may help to pass their evenings; his vivid descriptions of the beautiful country on the Savoy shore will bring back pleasant memories of an unspoilt and homely region. Much of the volume is fragmentary, discursive, desultory, but it is never dull. It should help to draw attention to an aspect of alpine scenery that has of late years fallen into undeserved neglect, the sunny lowlands and foothills dotted with tiny towns that have lost little of their antique character and bucolic charm. How many of our countrymen have visited Gruyères, where the cheeses come from, a hill town surrounded by a battlemented wall "within which the houses are herded like white sheep in a pen," beneath a massive castle, the whole looking like a town in a story-book or in an Albert Dürer engraving?

D. W. F.

## ASIA

**Michael D. Volonakis: The Island of Roses and her Eleven Sisters.** London: Macmillan & Co. 1922. Pp. xxv. + 438. 40s. net.

This is a rambling, unmethodical, unscientific, sometimes inaccurate, generally interesting and charming account of Rhodes and the other islands which make up the group commonly called the Dodecanese, taken from Turkey