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The Position of Geography in Science and Education

Die Erdkunde: eine Darstellung ihrer Wissensgebiete, ihrer Hilf-wissenschaften und der Methode ihres Unterrichtes by Maximilian Klar

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follows the original German edition, and while the orthography of some of the geographical names has been modified in accordance with English usage, a few of the woodcuts retain the German titles. In the French edition many additional illustrations were introduced, together with supplementary references to original sources of information; these make this version on the whole the most useful for geologists, but the task of adequately illustrating the 'Antlitz der Erde' is nearly a hopeless one. In some of the chapters the reader wanders through a maze of geographical names, and to follow all the descriptions in detail would involve the consultation of a library of atlases and papers. Then in a brief and vivid summary the results of the inquiry are brought to a focus, and the great principles involved stand forward in the clearest light.

In this volume we have a synthetic study of the mountains of the globe. The work begins with a general introduction in which the main lines of geological evidence are sketched—earthquakes, volcanoes, changes of level, faulting, and erosion; this includes a brilliant chapter on the Noachian deluge, which, it is argued, finds a rational explanation in a fortuitous conjunction of seismic and cyclonic disturbances over the plains of the lower Euphrates. The second part opens with a discussion of the Alps and the relation between the great system of Alpine folds and the stable platform of older rocks which lies to the north of them. This mountain system is then traced through the great hook-shaped curve of the Apennines into North Africa, and across the pillars of Hercules into the Betic Cordillera, while to the eastward it sweeps through the great semicircle of the Carpathians. The great sunken areas of the Adriatic and the Western Mediterranean are shown to lie within the mountain arcs, and the Tertiary history of the Mediterranean area is outlined in a brief but highly significant chapter. From Europe we proceed to Asia, and examine the great mountains which diverge from the upper valley of the Indus. The whole vast system of Tertiary folds is contrasted with the stable areas which lie to the north in Europe, Siberia, and China, and to the south in Central Africa and the Indian peninsula. Lastly, in two chapters, the mountains of the western hemisphere are briefly discussed.

Over this wide field the author ranges with consummate ease; his knowledge of the geological literature of the most distant countries is equalled by the skill with which he seizes on those facts which are of prime importance. It is his aim to show the harmony which underlies phenomena apparently discordant, and to point out the analogies in structure and history in the different mountain ranges of the world. Criticism may easily be directed on individual points, but the wide scope and philosophic depth of the main argument must impress every reader. No book has ever proved more stimulating in the best sense than the 'Face of the Earth,' and we return to it again and again with renewed enjoyment. It is to be hoped that the second volume will appear in English without great delay; the third volume has not yet been completed in the original edition.

J. S. F.

## GENERAL.

### THE POSITION OF GEOGRAPHY IN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

'Die Erdkunde: eine Darstellung ihrer Wissensgebiete, ihrer Hilfswissenschaften und der Methode ihres Unterrichtes.' Herausgegeben von Maximilian Klar. Leipzig und Wien: 1903-1905.

The necessity of placing the teaching of geography in intermediate education on a higher level than it stands now, is being very keenly felt in Germany and Austria. In proportion as the university teaching of everything connected with the study of our planet and its inhabitants attains an increasingly higher level in

the universities of these two countries, the need is being felt to raise the level of geographical education in the *Gymnasia* and *Realschulen*. At the same time, the demands which have been put before the teacher of geography have lately been widened on the continent so as to require from him acquaintance with a number of natural and anthropological sciences, while the question as to the methodics of geographical teaching altogether, and the general aims which it has to keep in view, has lately been the subject of thorough discussion at several geographical congresses.

The result has been to create amongst the teachers of the secondary schools in German-speaking Austria the need of a collection of text-books dealing, in a not too bulky form, with the diverse branches of geography and its auxiliary sciences, as well as with the methods of teaching. The outcome of this movement is the important work of which the title is given above. The intention of Prof. Max. Klar is to bring out a collection of some thirty different works, covering something like 5000 pages and costing about £6, which would deal with all the just-mentioned subjects in a condensed form. Such a work could evidently not be written by one man, and the collaboration of a number of men of science, some of whom are well known to the geographer, has been secured. Thus we notice among them Dr. Siegmund Günther ('History of Earth-knowledge'), Dr. Julius Mayer ('Heimat-Kunde'), Dr. Wilhelm Trabert ('Climatology'), Dr. Heinrich Schurtz ('Ethnology'), Dr. Alfred Kirchhoff, and many others.

In Prof. Klar's 'Erdkunde' the first two monographs are given to the history of geography and of geographical teaching. The methods of teaching are discussed next ('Methodics' and 'Heimat-Kunde'). Astronomical geography, the astronomical determinations of geographical co-ordinates, the nautical sciences, and chronology, form the contents of the next five parts. The next division is devoted to physical geography (including terrestrial magnetism), the earth's crust (a geological compendium for the geographers), the rivers and the ocean, meteorology, geo-botany, and geo-zoology. The sixteenth and seventeenth parts are devoted to ethnology and folk-lore, the eighteenth to geographical terminology, and the nineteenth to historical geography. The next two parts deal with political and economical geography. The methodics of topography and topography itself, geodesy, and cartography occupy the next three parts. And finally, in the last three parts, maps, reliefs, and other auxiliaries of geographical teaching are considered, as also geographical school collections; a separate fascicule contains problems that may be given for exercise in different portions of geographical teaching.

We have now before us seven parts of Prof. Klar's collection, and judging from them we can say that it will be most valuable for its purpose.

In a series like the geographical encyclopædia which we have before us, one has to direct his attention, first of all, to the work of Dr. Anton Becker, 'Methodik des Geographischen Unterrichtes. Ein pädagogisch-didaktisches Handbuch für Lehramts-kandidaten und Lehrer' (Part iii.). This small work of only ninety octavo pages will be found an extremely valuable aid by the teacher of geography. One might take exception to the too great importance attributed to *Heimatkunde*—the more so as the pupil of an intermediate school has necessarily already acquired in the primary school some knowledge of the aspects of the land, and will certainly acquire a greater interest in earth-knowledge by being told of distant lands and having pictures of distant landscapes shown to him. With the plentiful supply of illustrated periodicals, this would happen without the interference of the teacher. Therefore, the statement to the effect that "before all,

the fundamental conceptions of geography must be developed *only* from the contemplation of the locality," may be considered as too categorical. However, Dr. Becker gives so many references to the literature of the subject, that the reader may himself introduce the necessary limitations to the above statement. On the other hand, we find in the little work before us so much excellent advice given to the teacher, that we should be inclined to produce quite a number of quotations from it. Here is, for instance, one concerning the importance of the so-called "Kultur-geographie" as a means of general education—

"Nowhere does one find such an opportunity to point out the mutual interaction of geological, orographical, and climatic conditions, and their influence upon the conditions of human life and human work, as one finds here. The pupil has the possibility of getting a thorough acquaintance with a number of conceptions which are now continually referred to as 'war-cries' in our daily press. Here he learns about the different activities of man which are links of a great chain and serve the needs of all, as well as human progress as a whole. He learns to hold every sort of handiwork in esteem. While he gets an insight into the foundations of the economical state of a country, he learns not to over-estimate the conditions prevailing in his own country or abroad; and while he studies the economical conditions of a country, he obtains a clear comprehension of the history of its inhabitants."

Notwithstanding the compact size of this work, all the main points of geographical teaching, and the chief aids for this teaching—maps, globes, surveys, drawings, collections, etc.—are dealt with.

Part vii., "The Astronomical Determination of Geographical Co-ordinates," by Eugen Gelcich, will be most welcome to the geographer, as it deals with this important subject in a very thorough way, in a compact memoir of 126 pages. The different methods are treated without resorting to higher mathematics.

"Geodesy" (Part xxiii., 417 pages) is treated by Dr. Norbert Herz. This work was begun by Dr. H. Hartl, but was left unfinished by him at his death. As a text-book of elementary and higher geodesy the work of Dr. Herz has undoubtedly a great value, the different methods, as well as the instruments, being described with great lucidity, and illustrated by excellent diagrams, while those geodetical theorems which require the knowledge of the differential and integral calculus are not omitted, but are dealt with in small-type footnotes. Fully recognizing the necessity of such a detailed work in Prof. Klar's collection, we nevertheless ask ourselves whether a short summary of the subject, giving only a broad idea of the methods of geodesy, would not be equally desirable in a collection destined for the secondary schoolmaster. Moreover, we shall permit ourselves to point out that the unfortunately too-much-neglected measurements of altitudes might have been dealt with in some greater detail in the large work. A traveller who brings no hypsometrical material from the country he has explored, does not deserve the name of a geographer. Besides, something may also be said of the immense amount of enjoyment which can be obtained by schoolboys from altitude measurements during their pedestrian and cycling excursions. So we hope that this important subject will be dealt with in more detail under the head of topography.

Both volumes dealing with Ethnology and Folklore are already out. The former was written by Dr. Heinrich Schurtz, whose work on the secret class-organizations among savages was so much appreciated by specialists, but whom untimely death has carried away from our ranks during the printing of this last book in Prof. Klar's series. In the small space of 180 pages Dr. Schurtz

has given such an excellent compendium of his branch that it ought to be translated into all languages.

'Folklore: its Importance, its Aims, and its Methods,' by Dr. R. Fr. Kaindl, is an attempt to popularize this branch of research, and to define at the same time, in a scientific way, its proper methods of investigation and its relations to ethnology and anthropology. After having indicated what is being done in this direction in different countries, the author discusses the part that folklore plays in the development of our social conditions and the bearing of these studies on history. He concludes by giving detailed instructions and inquiries (some of them with explanatory drawings) for those who might undertake folklore studies, and finally discusses the scientific treatment of folklore materials, and the place of folklore in the school curriculum.

An extremely useful little work is that of J. W. Nagl on geographical names. The author, who is well acquainted with the already growing literature of this subject, gives explanations of geographical names with the Chinese, the Japanese, the Turkish stems, the Hebrews, the Phœnicians, the Magyars, and all European nations, and he deduces the general rules which may be observed in the formation of geographical names with different nations.

An important part of Prof. Klar's 'Erdkunde' is the volume (300 pages) given to Historical Geography by Dr. Wilhelm Götz. The author fully understood the impossibility of adequately dealing with this immense subject in a small volume, the more so as the very foundations of this branch of science are not yet settled. Therefore he only undertook to give a series of illustrations of the influence of geographical surroundings on the historical development in different regions of the Earth. One series is taken from the history of Middle Europe, and the other from the Mediterranean region. As a first attempt in this direction the work of Dr. Götz deserves full praise; but we must point out that the conquests of the forests and marshes of Middle Europe by man in the barbarian period, the influence of the village community, and especially the conquest of the country for civilization that was accomplished by the mediæval cities, are not brought sufficiently to light. It must also be said that none of the general preparatory works which are mentioned by the author could have been a safe guide in this branch of knowledge, which requires yet a great deal of original research. We hope, however, that the forthcoming large work of Elisée Reclus, in which man and his geographical surroundings are discussed at length, will be epoch-making in this direction.

We shall not fail to mention the other parts of Prof. Klar's great undertaking as soon as we have received them.

P. KROPOTKIN.

## THE MONTHLY RECORD.

### EUROPE.

**The Underground Waters of North-West Yorkshire.**—The report of a joint committee of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society and the British Association, formed for the purpose of continuing the investigations carried on by the former body on the underground waters of north-west Yorkshire, is printed in the *Proceedings* of that society for 1904 (N.S. vol. 15, pt. 2). The bulk of the report has been prepared by Mr. A. R. Derryhouse, on whom the greater part of the arrangements for the prosecution of the work devolved, and who gives both a general sketch of the geography and geology of the district investigated