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the strikers were Greeks—many of them newcomers; and their presence was at first thought to be as ticklish and incalculable as the vicinity of a powder magazine. Yet there was hardly a symptom of violence, and the issue was a creditable contrast to the ordinary programme of murder and persecution in the mining districts. It is a comforting reflection that this particular stream of immigrants is, as a rule, so well fitted for assimilation with the citizens of a republican government.

Four books on electricity are before us. The first of these, which is intended for the general reader, is incomplete, although already filling three volumes, being the first part and the first division (or a portion of it) of the second part of R. Mullineux Walmsley's 'Modern Practical Electricity.' It is an English book, referring to instruments used in England, and is printed there, though issued by W. T. Keener & Co. of Chicago. It carries no date; nor is there any intimation that it is a second edition of a ten-year-old book. Nor is there any statement as to the number of volumes still to come. On a hasty examination, one might suppose it to be complete. It really has a good deal of merit as being such an account, as any intelligent person can understand of those effects of electricity which may come into the experience of non-electricians. We cannot recommend it until we know when it is to be completed. The 'Elementary Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism,' of G. Carey Foster and Alfred W. Porter, is also a second edition; but as it is published by Longmans, Green & Co., we may be sure there is no occasion to cry *Carcat emptor*. It has been extensively revised, yet is hardly so good as an entirely new book might have been. It is a text-book that avoids the calculus.

'Elements of Electromagnetic Theory,' by S. J. Barnett (Macmillan), is a profound and meritorious mathematical work. The author has "tried to present in systematic and definite form a simple, rigorous, and thoroughly modern introduction to the fundamental principles of the subject." He does not seem to us to have succeeded in making the subject quite as perspicuous as he might have made it, nor everywhere to be clearly rigorous; yet he has produced a valuable work. Mr. G. D. Aspinall Parr's 'Electrical Engineering—Measuring Instruments' (Van Nostrand Co.) is a good technical book concerning instruments generally in use in England.

An elaborate quarto volume on the 'Climatology of California,' by A. G. McAdie (Weather Bureau Bulletin L, 1903), contains a large amount of useful statistical information; yet an examination of it must convince the reader that the art of treating the climate of a State otherwise than in tabular form is not well developed. Facts of interest and importance are presented in abundance, and many carefully prepared tables of temperature and rainfall are given for various stations; but the descriptive treatment of the problems involved leaves much to be desired. There does not appear to have been in the editor's mind a well-considered scheme in accordance with which the summarized facts should be verbally set forth. Charts of annual rainfall and mean annual temperature, with a table of monthly precipitation for a term of years (no locality given), come under a text-heading, "Pressure Distribution," for

no apparent reason. "Topography," a subject of great importance in such work, is treated briefly and unsatisfactorily; and the hot "northerners" of the great valley are mentioned here instead of in a subdivision of the section "Winds," which have no separate consideration. The view from Mt. Tamalpais, a Weather Bureau station, must be marvellous, for from it "one looks down on the broad expanse of the Pacific, nearly 20,000,000 square miles of water, to the north, west, and south." Fine plates of fog and clouds, and a discussion of frost, are given in the later pages. The table of contents is placed at the end of the book, and called "Index."

The "colored one-inch map" (one inch to a mile) of England now in course of publication by the Ordnance Survey (London: Stanford) is a vast improvement on the sheets of the earlier series, and is one of the best examples of modern topographic methods. The sheets are of various sizes and shapes, for reasons not easily apparent; their cost is not more than two or three shillings for the largest. They are excellent guides for local excursions, and add greatly to the pleasure of travel. Villages and roads are given in great detail, and the form of the ground is indicated with unusual success. Slopes are shown by well-drawn brown hachures; height by red contours for every hundred feet. The chief highways are in ochre, the water in blue, the parks in green, and the "culture" in black.

Among the maps issued during 1903, the Manchester sheet is remarkable for its density of population, characteristic of modern industrial England since the use of coal and steam withdrew the centre of population from the old agricultural counties. The Lincoln sheet, and the ones north and south of it, exhibit with much delicacy the escarpment of the oolite (limestone); and here one may trace "Ermine Street," of the ancient Roman ways, still generally followed, but sometimes locally abandoned for no apparent reason by the modern road: it has been suggested that this is because the Roman ways became more or less overgrown during the Dark Ages of their least use; and that later, when traffic increased again, the old ways were here and there lost in thickets, around which the newer road wandered. The Snowdon sheet and its neighbors include some notable examples of skeleton mountains, whose body has been gnawed out, in large part by glacial erosion, so as to leave only a narrow and branching backbone or arête: the round-headed cirques from which the glaciated valleys descend are fine examples of their kind. Mountains of this form present interesting contrasts on the one hand with the full-bodied masses of the Adirondacks, whose ample contours are but little indented by ravines; and on the other hand with certain skeleton mountains of North Carolina, whose delicately ramifying dissection is the work, not of clumsy, thick-headed ice-streams, but of slender and agile water-streams.

Two series of maps of Germany are in course of publication: the "Karte des Deutschen Reiches" (1:100,000), and the "Topographische Uebersichts-Karte des Deutschen Reiches" (1:200,000). The former indicates relief by means of black hachures, with numbers here and there

showing altitudes in metres. The latter indicates relief by brown contours for every 10 or 20 metres, and is therefore much to be preferred for general use. In such a district as the Schwarzwald the hachured map is too dark, and the names, also in black, are too indistinct for easy consultation. On both maps, water is in blue, and boundaries are tinted in various colors.

A remarkably fine and clearly lettered wall-map of North America comes to us from Carl Flemming in Glogau (New York: Lemcke & Buechner). It is clearly made up from four sheets of the ninth edition of the Sohr-Berghaus Handatlas, and embraces not only the entire continent, with Greenland, Iceland and the Aleutian Islands, Cuba, Hayti, Jamaica and Porto Rico, but also (in side maps) our imperial possessions and sphere of influence in the Pacific (but the Philippines are only minutely in evidence). Points of hostile contact like Colombia and Venezuela are just included on the lower margin, and there is a separate map for the Isthmus of Panama. The water space is thrifflily filled with small maps of North America to exhibit meteorology, vegetation, orography, crops, fisheries, etc.

—While scientists such as the president of a noted Western university are fulminating almost continuously against set college courses, and holding up to criticism, if not ridicule, almost everything in the history of college education more than twenty years old, it is at least a welcome break in a situation fast growing monotonous to find an avowed devotee of science, Prof. John J. Stevenson, taking directly opposite ground. In the *Popular Science Monthly* for January he assails with great vigor the present tendencies in college education, and maintains that the real need of the colleges is to get back to the standards in vogue several decades ago. He takes it as almost self-evident that the average student entering college cannot select for himself from the studies offered as wisely as men of age and experience in educational matters can select for him; and, even aside from all that, he regards the discipline of following a set course as an experience which the boy sorely needs, in preparation for the work of after life. The course should not be shortened, nor should colleges resort to the prevalent device of using the senior year to anticipate studies belonging properly to the professional school; thus allowing one year's work to be applied toward both the baccalaureate and the professional degree. Without any such clipping, he thinks, the lawyer or doctor can get before his public fully as early in life as they should be willing to entrust their cases to his hands. Scientists have been primarily responsible for the current bent towards early specialization, and it is a rare thing, at present, to find one on the opposite side of the question. A reaction is due, however, and it will not be surprising if Professor Stevenson finds a goodly number of scientists to stand with him in the idea that it is the proper function of our colleges and universities to make a man first and then a specialist.

—'Quebec under Two Flags' (The Quebec News Company) is the joint production of Dr. A. G. Doughty and Dr. N. E. Dionne, the librarians of the Quebec Legislature. Both writers know their sub-

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