

It may be urged that the book would be improved by dealing with difficulties as they arise, instead of deferring them—for example, in the zenithal equidistant, the equatorial and oblique cases are postponed to p. 154, whilst the simple polar case is treated on p. 54. The answer to this is that the difficulty is left until the reader is able to deal with such problems. The lucidity of the constructions, geographical and trigonometrical, and the liberal use of figures (even simple cases are illustrated) will be appreciated.

The author might realise that having used a light inside the sphere to project, it is a difficult task to "bring back the shadows." Again, the definition of latitude (p. 19) lacks precision. It is unfortunate that the determination of latitude and longitude was not incorporated into chap. iii., and some of the figures would be improved by the use of perspective. Figs. 12 and 13 illustrate this; the latter gives a much better impression of the sphere. Visualisation is a great help to any reader. The book will be welcomed as a sound basis for the study of map productions.

J. ELING COLECLOUGH.

*The Statesman's Year Book: Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World for 1927.* Edited by Dr. M. Epstein. Sixty-fourth Annual Publication. Revised after Official Returns. Pp. xxxviii + 1519. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 20s. net.

FOR the first time for forty-three years this volume makes its appearance without the name of Sir J. Scott Keltie on the title-page. The joint editor for the last seventeen years now has sole control. The volume is arranged on the plan of past years, which it would be difficult to improve, and, as usual, has been revised in every detail according to the latest returns available: With its fifteen hundred pages it is a marvel of condensation and convenient size. The recent census figures of the Irish Free State, Northern Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, France, and Egypt are included. Improvements have been made in the section on Morocco in order to bring out the distinction between the French, Spanish, and Tangier zones. Additions are also made to the Russian section, particularly in the portion relating to central Asia and the Caucasus. The introductory tables include various statistics of world production, and there is also a section on the League of Nations. The three coloured maps illustrate African railways and political jurisdiction, the Egypt-Cyrenaica boundary, and the boundaries between Nejd, Trans-Jordan, and Iraq. The valuable bibliographies contain the most authoritative works of reference on every State.

*Our Early Ancestors: an Introductory Study of Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Copper Age Cultures in Europe and Adjacent Regions.* By M. C. Burkitt. Pp. xii + 243. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1926.) 7s. 6d. net.

IN attempting to give an account of the development of civilisation from the end of the palæolithic age to the bronze age in Europe and adjacent

regions, within the compass of this small volume, Mr. Burkitt has essayed a very difficult task—difficult in more ways than one, for the material does not lend itself easily to systematic treatment. It has not been worked over and classified to the same extent as the material of the old stone age, and in the later stages the problem of dealing with a multiplicity of detail of which the bearing is often still obscure is complicated by ethnological questions to which the answers are still very much at the hypothetical stage. All credit is therefore due to Mr. Burkitt for the success with which he has carried out his task, even though in its later pages his book suffers from over-condensation and lack of space for adequate discussion of many doubtful points. Probably to most of his readers much of the material relating to the copper and bronze age will be seen in a new perspective, while the chapter on art brings together material which is usually scattered. It gains greatly in significance by the author's method of treatment.

*Delphos: the Future of International Language.* (To-day and To-morrow Series.) By E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Pp. 95. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., n.d.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE student of this recurrent and ever-present problem will welcome this extremely handy analysis of all hitherto attempted universal languages, contributed by Miss Pankhurst to the "To-day and To-morrow" series of opuscula. Both the purely 'invented' languages and those based upon existing languages are dispassionately discussed and explained, and the natural conclusion arrived at is a return to that form of the original universal language—Latin—which has been standardised by Sig. G. Peano under the name 'Interlingua' and already possesses a well-established academy. The examples given speak eloquently for themselves, for 'Interlingua' does not require to be 'learnt' by any ordinarily educated person. Any one with a superficial knowledge of elementary Latin can produce his own 'Interlingua,' and use it in case of need. E. H.-A.

*The Annual Register: a Review of Public Events at Home and Abroad for the Year 1926.* Edited by Dr. M. Epstein. Pp. xiv + 341 + 192. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 30s. net.

THIS admirable volume is arranged on the usual lines. Part I. contains summaries of British foreign and imperial history, the arrangement under States greatly facilitating reference. Part II. includes a chronicle of events, an obituary of the year with short biographies, and a retrospect of literature, science, art, finance, and law. No aspect of the year's history is omitted, and the balance between different interests is well kept. The twelve pages in which the science of the year is recorded mention the most important researches and publications. Among the public documents printed in full is the text of the Report of the Inter-Imperial Relation Committee that was adopted by the Imperial Conference in November 1926.