

mainly along the lines of analysis of weather charts developed at Bergen in Norway. Weather is now interpreted in terms of air masses and of the fronts which separate them, with an enormous gain in understanding of the physical processes underlying the changes of weather with place and time.

Climatology may be defined, perhaps a little crudely, as the time-integral of weather, and so there should be a close correlation between the interpretation of climatic data and the interpretation of the facts depicted on the synoptic chart over a selected interval of time. Hitherto this correlation has not been very obvious in the text-books of climatology.

In the book under review, Profs. Haurwitz and Austin have broken new ground in endeavouring to interpret climatological data in terms of air-masses, and their book is a definite step forward in the development of climatology. The book is in two parts, the first dealing with general climatology, the second with regional climatology. Under the heading of general climatology we find a discussion of solar radiation and heat balance of the atmosphere, temperature, wind and pressure, hydrometeors, air masses, fronts, cyclones and anticyclones. The discussion of these topics is of necessity brief, but is perhaps ample for the purpose of the later sections of the book. Many of the diagrams used have not hitherto appeared in text-books, and the authors are to be congratulated on their effective choice of diagrams for illustrating these early chapters. In the subsequent chapters of the first part of the book, the authors describe in some detail Köppen's classification of climates, in the form which this classification finally took (Köppen-Geiger, "Handbuch der Klimatologie", vol. 1C). This is the classification which the authors adopt as the basis of the second part of the book. But between the chapters describing the types of climate and those dealing with regional climatology is interposed a chapter on micro-climatology, which seems curiously aloof from the rest of the book. What is in general called micro-climatology is not in reality climatology, and could more logically be called micro-meteorology. The inclusion of a chapter on the subject in the middle of the present book appears to the present reviewer a tactical error, since it is a barrier to the smooth development of the plan of the book.

The second part of the book deals with regional climatology of the globe, dividing the globe into eight areas, and devoting one chapter to each area. In each chapter are discussed briefly the physical features, the mean distribution of pressure and wind, ocean currents, the prevalent air-masses, fronts, cyclones and anticyclones, and the climatic types occurring within the area. The amount of information given under each heading varies from area to area. For example, the accurate description of air masses over most of Africa is not possible in the absence of adequate upper air data, and the brevity of the three chapters dealing with Australia and New Zealand, with arctic and antarctic, and with oceanic regions, is to be ascribed to the inadequacy of certain types of data from a very large part of the globe.

Each of the eight chapters contains tables of frequencies of wind directions in January and July for a selection of stations, and tables of mean temperature, precipitation, and cloudiness in January, April, July and October, for a number of selected stations. The times of observation are not stated.

A revolution in the method of presentation of climatological data appears to be inevitable, but much intense work will have to be done before this revolution is achieved. The authors of the present book have made a beginning, and it is likely that shortly there will be much fuller meteorological data available for nearly the whole globe, the discussion of which will make it possible to give fuller treatment of many of the topics they have discussed.

The book under review is to be recommended to all who take an intelligent interest in climatology, be they meteorologists or geographers.

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THE RACE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AMERICA

El Indoamericanismo y el Problema Racial en las Américas

Por Prof. Dr. Alejandro Lipschutz. Segunda edicion. Pp. 501+32 plates. (Santiago: Editorial Nascimento, 1944.) n.p.

PROF. LIPSCHUTZ explains that what he means by Indo-americanism is the vindication of the economic and cultural rights of the masses of Indians and mestizos of America, who have been up to the present "disinherited". His book is a plea for an "Indo-american resurrection", which, it may be noted, has already been partly brought about in Mexico. He attacks what he calls "racial hypocrisy", that is, the justification of the inferior social position in which certain portions of the population are kept, by the excuse that those of American Indian or African Negro blood are racially inferior to the descendants of Europeans. A considerable part of the book is a discussion of the supposed biological inferiority and superiority of different races of mankind, and the degeneration that is popularly supposed to result from racial miscegenation. He deals not only with the American Indians but also with the African Negro, and makes use of the abundant anthropological literature that now exists on this subject.

The racial problem, as the author says, is not really a biological but a social problem, and it presents itself in different forms in different countries. What Prof. Lipschutz is concerned with is that the descendants of the conquered Indian tribes and of the African slaves constitute what may be called a deprived class condemned by the present social system to occupy, economically and culturally, an inferior position. This, he thinks, must be remedied by a widespread social reform if the Spanish American republics are to survive as independent national entities by the side of the United States within a united American continent.

The author thinks that the future of the whole American continent depends on the racial problem of North America. He recognizes the gravity of the problem of racial discrimination against the Negroes of the United States, but finds some grounds for optimism in the fact that sixty or seventy years ago the American Indians were in that country regarded as an essentially inferior race and that the attitude towards them has now greatly changed.

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