

remembered, was performed during the years 1870-73, when this distinguished traveller reached as far as the Lama monastery of Cheibsen near Lake Koko-Nor, and to Tsaidam, but was forced to abandon his intention of going to Lhasa, and so retraced his steps to Alashan. From thence he went to Peking, and returned to Siberia across the Desert of Gobi. The second journey was undertaken from Kuldja to the Lake Lob Nor across the Tian-shan Mountains. On the third journey Col. Prjevalsky started from Zaisan, passing through Barkul Khami, Sa-tzhei, and Tsaidam, where he reached the country he had explored on his first journey. He now proceeded to carry out his former intention of going to Lhasa, and he struggled over the great plateau of Tan-la till he reached the town of Boomtza. At Nap-chu, in the neighbourhood of this town, he was informed that he would be allowed to proceed no further in the direction of the capital of the Dalai Lama. He was then a little more than 160 miles from Lhasa. Negotiations were useless: he was not allowed to proceed. Contenting himself with taking a portrait of the messengers from the Dalai Lama, he turned northwards and retraced the long and wearisome march across the Tan-la plateau. The winter of 1879-80 was occupied with this march and with the observations upon the manners and customs of the people, as well as investigations into the flora and fauna of the district he was passing through. Prjevalsky possesses in an eminent degree the buoyant spirit of the traveller which enables him to observe calmly and critically the surroundings in which he finds himself, even though he is overcome with hardship or pressed by the weight of disappointment. Returning to Tsaidam, he set out on his way to Lake Koko-Nor, where he had been in the year 1873. He remained in this neighbourhood for some time, and he followed the course of the Hoang-ho for about 150 miles. This part of his journey took him over new ground, and his explorations of these upper waters of the Yellow River or Hoang-ho are of the utmost value. He followed the course of the river as far as Gui-wei, which forms an oasis amidst great arid mountain-chains. It was so difficult to advance and forage was so scarce that Prjevalsky turned back from the Hoang-ho and directed his steps towards Lake Koko-Nor. The rain, which had stopped for a time, recommenced, and was often accompanied with severe cold, which added materially to the discomforts of the journey. The monastery of Cheibsen was revisited after the lapse of about seven years, and there Prjevalsky was well received by the priests, whose acquaintance he had made on his former visit. The journey was continued through Nan-shan and Alashan amidst the wildest mountain scenery, till a descent was made upon the great Desert of Gobi. The change was great from the high mountains of Pan-cu to the waterless expanse of the desert, but Prjevalsky was always ready with his notebook as well as with his gun; and the result is that this volume contains a mass of information for the ethnologist as well as for the naturalist. The return was made in safety through the desert to Urga and Kiakhta. This is a brief outline of the journey recorded in these pages, and the only regret one has is that so few amongst us can read the language in which it is written. It is to be hoped that the volume will ere long be translated into our own language.

The simplicity of the style, the novelty of the subject, the interest of the narrative, and the personality of the writer, who has reached such a high position amongst adventurous travellers, combine to make this a most invaluable acquisition for the library of the naturalist as well as of the geographer. Very many new species have been obtained of both plants and animals, and one of the most important of the discoveries recorded is that of a new species of horse. Polyakoff has proposed to call this new species (of which a specimen is to be found in the museum of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg) after the discoverer—*Equus Prjevalskii*. But the new species of plants and animals are so numerous that it has been proposed to apply a special name to the flora and fauna of the district, which are found to differ considerably from those of Western China.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF

*Deutsche Kolonien. Ein Beitrag zur Besser Kenntniss des Lebens und Wirkens unserer Landleute in allen Erdtheilen.* Von Karl Emil Jung. (Leipzig: Freytag, 1884.)

DR. JUNG is well known as an accomplished writer, both on the scientific and economical aspects of the Australian colonies, in which he spent some years. His present brochure is one of much interest, though its immediate subject is beyond our scope. It is a curious fact that though the Germans have no colonies, they are probably, next to the English, the greatest colonisers of any European nation. Even according to the census returns, the German population of the United States is very great, and as Dr. Jung shows, it is much greater than it seems, for many of the earlier colonists have Anglicised their names, and been absorbed in the general population. To the culture of the States, and indeed to the intellectual side of all the colonies in which they have settled, the Germans have largely contributed. Dr. Jung gives interesting details of German migrations into England, Russia, Australia, South Africa, as well as the States, and from the ethnological standpoint his little work deserves the attention of the scientific student.

*Catalogue de la Bibliothèque Japonaise de Nordenskjöld.* Coordonné, revu, annoté, et publié par Léon de Rosny. (Paris, 1883.)

THIS collection of Japanese works in all departments of literature, which appears to have been collected by Baron Nordenskjöld while in Japan, has been presented by him to the Bibliothèque Royale at Stockholm. The editor, the veteran Japanese scholar, M. de Rosny of Paris, has not been satisfied with a bald catalogue, but has in many instances added descriptive and analytic notes of the contents, the character of the work, and its place in Japanese literature; and although the collection can hardly equal in extent and value those of several European libraries, we are not aware that such an excellent catalogue exists in any European language. The whole contains about 1000 works in over 5000 volumes, and is divided and subdivided by M. de Rosny with much nicety. The scientific works are not very numerous. On the exact sciences (arithmetic, geometry, algebra, astronomy, &c.) there are only 104 volumes, and on the natural sciences 445. But most of these are dated prior to the opening of the country to foreigners, and to the student who could examine them they would present an interesting picture of the state of scientific knowledge at various periods.