

acquainted with reproduction processes, but it should be consulted by those who wish to gain an idea of the many methods available. As a picture book alone the volume is cheap at the price of 5s.

(2) This very serviceable publication celebrates its jubilee in the present year. This series of almanacs commenced its life as a wall or sheet calendar, and appeared as a supplement to the *British Journal of Photography* in the year 1860. The current volume is decidedly bulky, and weighs 2.75 lb. Appropriately, it passes in review its past history, and contains a number of portraits of editors and publishers, past and present.

Our photographic readers are all familiar with the general nature of the contents of recent issues, so that it is not necessary to recapitulate these. The epitome of progress, contributed by the editor, is a conspicuous feature as usual, and gives a very useful set of classified abstracts of papers, communications, and articles describing the progress made in technical photography, which have appeared in the British and foreign Press during the twelve months ending October 20, 1910. This alone occupies about 140 pages. Another subject treated, most helpful to those who cannot make themselves acquainted with it first hand, is that which deals with recent novel introductions in photographic apparatus; the eighty-six pages devoted to this are deserving of close attention. The formulæ for photographic processes, covering sixty-seven pages, and the instructions for the use of commercial photographic materials, occupying sixty-five pages, are valuable features to have brought together under one cover. The various tables—chemical, exposure, optical, &c.—and the directory of photographic bodies and societies, all of which are brought well up-to-date, seem to show the mass of useful material embodied in this almanac.

No mention has yet been made of the useful and well-indexed advertisements, which take up nearly two-thirds of the 1348 pages, that compose the volume. These in themselves are very handy for reference. The jubilee number is thus a fitting volume for the occasion, and should, as usual, be in every photographic studio or laboratory.

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE.

Geologische Charakterbilder. Edited by Prof. Dr. H. Stille. Heft ii., Grosse erratiche Blöcke im nord-deutschen Flachlande. By F. Wahnschaffe. Pp. v+6 plates. Price 3.60 marks. Heft iii., Das Karstphänomen. By A. Grund. Pp. iii+6 plates. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1910.) Price 4.80 marks.

THE object of these "Charakterbilder" is to provide geologists with a series of illustrations of natural phenomena, which shall be accurate and typical. The authors are selected for special knowledge, and supply several pages of text, printed on sheets of the same size as the plates. The plates, however, are loose, and can be used in the work of small classes, or can be framed for laboratories.

Herr A. Grund deals with the features of the karstlands, and surely a grey instead of a brown tint

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would have done more justice to the pictures that he has brought together. Except for welcome patches of *terra rossa* round the dolinas, sometimes perhaps turned up newly by the plough, the impression of the karst is eminently white or grey. A few dark trees, themselves almost colourless, break or serve to emphasise the monotony of the slopes. The author aptly compares the dolinas to the valleys of normal areas; they are the channels that lead off the water in a permeable land. The character of a plateau is, moreover, preserved without marked local dissection, in a district where there can be no considerable surface-streams. A peneplane, once established, long remains a peneplane. An interesting discussion is given in connection with plate ii., as to why the limestone or karst areas of higher latitudes, as in Moravia or Champagne, are covered with vegetation, in opposition to those of the Mediterranean region. The chief factor is held to be weathering by frost, which soon cumbers the surface with blocks that promote a soil. Signs of mechanical weathering are almost absent in the barren karstlands. A typical *polje* is shown from Herzegovina in plate vi., with its alluvial floor contrasting sharply with the desolate limestone hills. In this case the form of the basin is attributed, as in many Bosnian examples, to the deformation of a valley-floor by earth-movements.

Herr Wahnschaffe had a simpler task in describing, in the previous part, a number of large erratics found on the North German plain. The greatest of these, a mass of garnet-mica-gneiss, occurs in a churchyard at Gross-Tychow in Hinterpommern, and measures, above ground, 3.74 m. in height, 15.90 m. in length, and 11.25 m. in breadth. The thick-set fir-woods that surround most of these wanderers from Scandinavia form "Charakterbilder" in themselves. The author provides a clear, brief essay on the history of the theory of glacial transport, beginning with Playfair in 1802.

G. A. J. C.

FOSSIL REMAINS OF MAN.

Der Stand unserer Kenntnisse vom fossilen Menschen. By Prof. W. Branca. Pp. viii+112. (Leipzig: Veit and Co., 1910.) Price 2.50 marks.

WITHIN the last few years there has been a marked recrudescence of interest in the study of the fossil remains of man, and the stream of literature relating to the subject has suddenly become so voluminous that the torrent threatens to overwhelm those readers who cannot devote their whole time to its perusal. In these circumstances any attempt to summarise and criticise this recent work is likely to meet with a hearty welcome, even though, as the author of this work frankly admits, it is far from complete.

Like the compiler of an analogous report on the same subject in this country (Sollas, presidential address to the Geological Society, 1910), the author of the book under review is a geologist, and as such he deals in a critical spirit with the determination of the age of the remains of diluvial man, insisting upon the need for placing chief reliance upon stratigraphic evidence, secondarily on that afforded by associated