

the exact meaning of the importance to be attached to the climatic factor.

A tendency observed in other American text-books is also to be noticed in this—that of introducing details which can scarcely be considered to have any relation with geography, even following the widest connotation of that term. The very close details of output in the economic chapters provide an illustration in point, valuable as they are, no doubt, in themselves. This book is very fully illustrated; many both of the diagrams and of the views are on too small a scale to fulfil their purposes properly.

(2) The "Geography of the British Empire," by Prof. Herbertson and Mr. Thompson, is arranged on a simple descriptive plan, and illustrated with a very large number of sketch-maps mostly showing very clearly the special points which they are intended to show, though not all are free from the charge of over-reduction. The book is of an elementary character, and little or no endeavour is made to deal with the inter-relation of the various parts of the Empire, though these are treated individually with a due sense of proportion. This proportionate treatment, within the compass of one volume, is in itself a valuable educational achievement, indicating what should be the first object of geographical teaching in British schools. It may be regretted, perhaps, that the coloured physical maps are confined to the representation of the British Isles.

(3) The Cambridge County Geographies have unquestionably improved since the inception of the series, and Mr. Valentine's volume on Forfarshire maintains the standard. In general reputation for scenic and kindred interests the eastern counties of Scotland have suffered in contrast with the western, yet Forfarshire is an area possessing many natural beauties, both on the coast and inland: its archæological interests are considerable, and its economic importance is high. All these aspects are clearly illustrated, both textually and by means of photographs, though the statistics freely quoted in the economic connection will not long maintain their value. The descriptions of ancient remains and buildings (for which Forfar is scarcely surpassed by any other Scottish county) are specially good.

(4) Mr. Sheppard provides a complete physical and historical setting for his study of the villages of Holderness which have been destroyed by the encroachment of the sea on the land. He cites authorities very fully, and has investigated old maps with great care; there is a chapter on these, with a number of reproductions, some of which have been reduced so far that not only the

minutiæ, but also the more salient features, are lost; in such cases the reproduction of the pertinent section of the map on a larger scale would have been preferable. There are many appropriate photographs and reproductions of old prints. In one respect the title of the book does less than justice to its scope, for the last six chapters are descriptive of the East Riding generally, and will serve as a useful guide to that district.

The books by Mr. Valentine and Mr. Sheppard both contain, as it happens, an explanation of the word "shire"; the two writers curiously disagree on the point.

#### OUR BOOKSHELF.

*Photography of To-day.* By H. Chapman Jones. Pp. 342+plates. (London: Seeley, Service, and Co., Ltd., 1913.) Price 5s. net.

THERE are a variety of text-books of photography in the market, one of which is by Mr. Chapman Jones. On turning to the work under review, to our great relief it is found to be of a totally different character from the ordinary variety. It contains no formulæ for developers or for anything else, but is what it professes to be—"a popular account of the origin, progress and latest discoveries in the photographer's art, told in non-technical language"—and is illustrated with excellent illustrations of pictorial art, and with some passable diagrams. The author commences with light and its effects, then continues with lenses, and follows on with a short history of photography told in a bright and readable manner.

The history of photography before the use of gelatine is cut rather short, but perhaps it is well, as those who read the work will, as a rule, be those who use a Kodak—the "press the button and we do the rest" kind of people. To such photographers the chapters on the gelatine process will be read with pleasure, and will at all events enable them to talk rationally about their hobby, which is seldom the case at present, with few exceptions, and it may be that by reading it they may wish to "press the button" and do the rest themselves. The printing processes are fully described, as are instantaneous photography and telephotography. Truth and error in photography have a chapter devoted to them. There is a saying as to "lying like a photograph." Mr. Chapman Jones lets photography down easily in this respect.

The author has produced a book which it is a pleasure to read, and with some small omissions has carried out its intention admirably. Allusion has already been made to the illustrations, which are all distinctly good. It would have been interesting if he had told us the method adopted of reproducing the picture of the frontispiece, "A Rainbow from an Autochrome," in more detail than he does. We can recommend the book to all, more especially to those who are not expert photographers.