

## OUR BOOKSHELF.

*A Junior Geography of the World.* By B. C. Wallis. Pp. x+310+maps. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1913.) Price 2s. 6d.

THIS book possesses many merits; its language is always clear, its accuracy, so far as can be judged, unimpeachable. It is arranged on the plan of a long introductory section dealing with the principles of geography, followed by a treatment of the continents in detail, in which the order followed is the unusual (and not obviously advantageous) one of Australia, Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe. A final separate section deals with the British Isles. The volume is entitled a junior geography, but, to juniors, parts of it (such as that on map-making, or some of the sections which deal with the quantitative analysis of products) may be found difficult; while, excellent as the geographical principle of regional comparison is, it is open to question whether it should be followed from the very beginning. In this department, the text possibly tends to be over-weighted with examples. Each section contains a number of questions, in many cases based upon examination questions selected with great care from a wide range of papers.

The illustrations, whether maps, diagrams, or pictures, are clear and good, but we cannot conceive that the extremely small type employed is justifiable on any standard. The index is remarkable. It is stated to be "intentionally short"; in point of fact, it contains about sixty references under eight headings, and the student is charged to make a full index for himself on the lines indicated. Is modern educational practice to demand of the student that he should index all his text-books?

*Hereditary Genius: An Inquiry into its Laws and Consequences.* By F. Galton. New edition. Pp. xxix+379. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 5s. net.

"HEREDITARY GENIUS" was first published in 1869 and comes second in the series of works in which Galton's investigations on inheritance were given to the public, being preceded in 1865 by the papers in "Hereditary Talent and Character" which appeared in *Macmillan's Magazine*. A second edition appeared in 1892 from which the present issue has been reprinted. That after forty-five years there should still be a demand for this book is no source of wonder. It is the work of a master and for that reason one shrinks from praising it. But coming back to it after an interval one is struck again by its freshness, its readableness, and the wealth of apt comparison with which it is illustrated. Of the social significance of the subject it is also needless to speak. As Galton shows it bears on most things of interest to the human race from the doctrine of original sin to the vigorous growth of new colonies, and it led him in the last chapter to express views on individuality and the place of the individual in the living universe, which seem to be echoed in much modern sociological teaching on the subject.

The publishers have earned our gratitude in again making this book available, but it is to be regretted that economy in the matter of margin has given the printed pages a rather unattractive appearance.

*The Engineering Index Annual for 1913.* Pp. 508. (New York: The Engineering Magazine Co., 1914.) Price 2.00 dollars.

THIS volume of the Engineering Index is the twelfth since the work first appeared and is the eighth since the appearance of annual issues. It comprises the monthly instalments published in 1913 in the *Engineering Magazine* and covers the field of serial literature in engineering up to October, 1913. The purpose of the volume is to aid the searcher for information on any specific subject connected with engineering to obtain quickly the names and dates of issue of periodicals, etc., containing articles dealing with the subject. The matter is classified under the main headings of civil engineering, electrical engineering, industrial economy, marine and naval engineering, mechanical engineering, mining and metallurgy, railway engineering, and street and electric railways. These again are subdivided into sections, thus facilitating the process of obtaining all published information on any given subject. Each reference gives, in addition to the name and date of the periodical, a brief summary of the contents of the article or paper, sufficient in most cases to enable the searcher to decide whether it is worth while to pursue his inquiries further. Owing to the great mass of engineering matter published annually throughout the world, the need for such a volume is evident, and the present work can be recommended as a successful attempt to give a concise and complete index of last year's publications.

*Routledge's New Dictionary of the English Language.* Edited by C. Weatherby. Pp. viii+1039. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1914.) Price 3s. 6d.

THIS attractively produced dictionary claims to include all the principal new scientific, technical, industrial, sporting, colloquial, slang, and other words, both English and American, as well as pronunciations and etymologies. Prolonged use alone enables one to pronounce judgment on a dictionary; but it may be said that this has answered successfully numerous test appeals made to it.

*Nature in Books. A Literary Introduction to Natural Science.* By J. L. Robertson. Pp. 156. (Oxford: The University Press, 1914.) Price 2s.

THE primary object of this little book is to kindle in young readers an interest in, and love for, Nature and her works. The author's idea is to lead pupils from the descriptions of Nature by our great writers to the world of wonder itself. We echo his hope that the book will take many of its readers to "the open," and that there they may become open-eyed and intelligent first-hand observers.