

"The presence of cork enables one to distinguish Spanish from Russian licorice." It really only enables one to distinguish unpeeled from peeled root, and there are several varieties of each. "In *Canella alba* the periderm is replaced by stone cell-cork." This "cell-cork" is not cork at all, but phelloderm. "The cells . . . are of a typical cork shape, but the walls are lignified, unequally thickened. . . ." The walls of typical cork cells are very frequently lignified and often unequally thickened. "The inner or thicker walls are strongly porous." From the illustration it would appear that the outer walls are the thicker. "The cork periderm which fissures and scales off as the root increases in diameter." *Canella alba* bark is obtained from the stem and not from the root; the cork periderm does not scale off, but has to be loosened by beating.

It is to be regretted that in its present form the book cannot be recommended for either teacher or student. It possesses, however, some elements of a useful work, notably the carefully executed illustrations.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Bedfordshire. By C. Gore Chambers. Pp. x+195. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1917.) Price 1s. 6d. net.

THOUGH one of the smallest English counties and with nearly nine-tenths of its area lying in one river basin, Bedfordshire possesses considerable geographical interest. Travellers by the Midland Railway, which traverses its length from Luton to near Wellingborough, cross five geological belts and can recognise each in passing by characteristic features of contour, tree flora, agriculture, and building material. In the churches, manor houses, and "motte and baileys" there is a wealth of archæological interest. Moreover, it was in this county that James Wyatt and, later, Worthington Smith obtained their evidence of the existence of Palæolithic man in Britain.

This and much more finds adequate description in Mr. Gore Chambers's book. It follows the lines of the Cambridge County Geographies, and well maintains the standard of that series. The best sections are those dealing with ecclesiastical architecture, history, and antiquities, though, under the last-named, one looks in vain for any reference to the "lynches" of the northern escarpment of the Chilterns. Considering the varied flora and fauna, the natural history section is rather disappointing and needs revision. Under "Industries" a good historical account is given of the straw-hat manufacture.

Though the author did not live to see its publication, the book has been well edited and illustrated. "Father" for "fat-hen," as a local name for goosefoot, is the only misprint noticed. As a record it brings us down to 1914. Since then geographical change has been rapid. The gale of March, 1916, swept away the great walnut orchard noted on p. 55. The war is bringing changes far more profound: new industries into

country places, steam cultivators into the grasslands, sawmills into the woods. A new era has begun, and it is all to the good that the book gives us a faithful picture of the county at the close of an era which has passed away. T. S. D.

The Pupil's Class-book of Geography: Scotland; Asia, with special reference to India. Each by Ed. J. S. Lay. Pp. 96 and pp. 128. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1917.) Price 7d. and 8d. respectively.

It is no easy matter to present geographical principles in a way that can readily be grasped by the average child of nine or ten years of age, but Mr. Lay has been fairly successful in his attempt, apart from a few lapses into the old-time memorising of place-names. The volumes are intended for study by the children themselves. With this end in view, they contain numerous questions, all of which can be answered from the text and the maps, and simple exercises in map- and diagram-drawing. Each book contains many diagrams and black-and-white maps, most of which are excellent, so that it is complete in itself and does not entail the use of an atlas. In the two volumes named above the author has been more successful in that dealing with Scotland. Asia is a more difficult task, and as half the volume is devoted to the Indian Empire the sense of proportion is lost—a serious defect in all geographical study. Climate is treated simply in accordance with the general plan: in Scotland the author has successfully evaded most pitfalls in his simplification, but in the case of Asia the treatment is less happy. The low price of the books is noteworthy. R. N. R. B.

The Historical Register of the University of Cambridge. Edited by Dr. J. R. Tanner. Pp. xii+1186. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1917.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

THIS volume forms a supplement to the "Cambridge University Calendar," and provides a record of University offices, honours, and distinctions to the year 1910. Up to 1913, when it had grown to 1547 pages, the "Calendar" itself contained historical information; but in that year the Syndics of the Press decided to transfer the historical particulars to a separate "Historical Register," to be published less frequently. This rearrangement has made it possible to publish additional historical data, and among the added matter in the present volume may be mentioned lists of holders of University offices, professorships, and so on, from the earliest date of which there is any record; sections on the historical jurisdiction and procedure of the University courts, ceremonies, costume and discipline, as well as on the history of the Mathematical Tripos; and enlarged indexes. The Tripos lists in the old "Calendar," moreover, have been collated with the original sources, *aegrotats* and *honorary optimes* have also been included, and the footnotes have been rewritten.