

description of the glacial deposits of the country, and the authors support the views held by Close with regard to the centres of distribution of the ice, and those of Hull on the origin of the sands and gravels which sometimes occur between two layers of boulder clay. Both these views have been placed in grave doubt by recently published work, and though some of the papers are included in the bibliography, they are not discussed in the text.

Section III. is an account of the general geological history, and contains much that is calculated to stimulate thought, as does also the following section on orographic elements. The volume concludes with an account of the principal minerals of economic value found in the country.

The illustrations include a geological map of Ireland and several sections, but during perusal the lack is felt of a map showing the positions of the various topographic features and towns mentioned in the text.

*The Year-Book of the Universities of the Empire, 1925.*

Edited by W. H. Dawson. (Published for the Universities Bureau of the British Empire.) Pp. xii+808. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1925.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS Yearbook, published for the Universities Bureau of the British Empire, has established a claim to be considered not only a useful but an indispensable work of reference for all who are concerned with higher education and research.

The latest edition has just come to hand. Included in a little more than 800 pages are a general survey of the British universities, very full particulars of all the universities within the Empire, as well as some shorter notes regarding the other universities of the world. The book contains also among its valuable appendices information regarding the conditions of entrance to the professions, the various matriculation and other entrance examinations, inter-university scholarships, grants for research, etc., and, what is particularly useful, a list of subjects for specialised study in the universities of the United Kingdom.

A considerable amount of hard work must have gone to the compilation of this volume. The universities of the Empire alone now number 67, and to obtain information regarding their affairs would, in the absence of a volume such as this, necessitate the consultation of a set of calendars constituting in themselves a library of formidable dimensions. The possessor of the volume is spared such a laborious task, and the condensation of so much information has been made possible by a system of abbreviations which is ingenious and easily followed.

We have tested the volume by frequent reference and found it remarkably accurate. It reflects credit alike upon the editor and the publishers.

*North Manchuria and the Chinese Eastern Railway.*

Pp. xiii+454+13 plates. (Harbin, China: C.E.R. Printing Office, 1924.) 6 dollars.

THIS volume was first published in Russian in 1922, but the present edition has not only been well translated, but has been thoroughly revised and considerably extended. It deals mainly with the country traversed

by the Eastern Chinese Railway in its course of some nine hundred miles from the Siberian railway to the Ussuri railway on the way to Vladivostok. In this northern part of Manchuria, settlement, mainly by Chinese, dates almost entirely from the opening of the railway in 1903, which allowed the Manchu authorities to carry out their policy of colonisation which had been initiated a few years previously. For through traffic between east and west the Chinese Eastern railway is the shortest route, but it no longer has a monopoly since the earlier designed but later constructed Amur line was built entirely within Russian territory.

A short chapter on the physical geography of Manchuria is followed by long and full accounts of the economic development of the country and the waterways and railroads. A concluding chapter deals with the operating of the railroads. The rapid growth of prosperity and the great food-producing possibilities of the country are well brought out. There are a number of illustrations, but the maps are weak. Altogether it is a useful volume on a country about which authoritative information is not too easy to obtain.

*Algebraic Geometry: a First Course, including an Introduction to the Conic Section.* By M. P. Meshenberg. Pp. xi+127. (London: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd., 1924.) 3s. 6d. net.

THIS is one of the best introductions to algebraic geometry that we have seen. It is mainly intended to be used as a class-book by senior courses just beginning analytical geometry in secondary schools. Within the compass of a hundred pages the author has contrived to give a thorough treatment of the co-ordinate geometry of the straight line and circle, together with a short but very satisfying introduction to the conic sections. The student is evidently given the benefit of much practice in teaching the subject; very many pitfalls which often disturb beginners are pointed out, and the summaries will be found most helpful to learners. We confidently recommend Mr. Meshenberg's book both to teachers and to private students; it is worthy of being used very widely. W. E. H. B.

*Australasia and New Zealand.* By B. C. Wallis. (Macmillan's Practical Modern Geographies.) Pp. x+350. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 5s.

THIS is a useful addition to the series to which it belongs. Australia and New Zealand receive rather scant notice in most English textbooks, but Mr. Wallis's work fills the gap. He has produced a book which is full of accurate information and is particularly valuable in its chapters on climate—a difficult part of the subject, and one which is too often shirked by writers of textbooks. A great deal of statistical information is given throughout the book. This may not attract some teachers, but certainly should help to give greater precision and respect for facts in the study of geography. The book contains more than one hundred admirable maps, and above a hundred and fifty well-selected illustrations. These features alone give value to the volume.