in form. That, however, is a matter of little moment if the standard of quality continues to be as high as that attained by the first issue. This is a study of the Naron, by Miss D. F. Bleek, the lecturer on Bushman languages in the University.

The Naron are a Bushman tribe of Sandfontein, whose language is closely allied to that of the Nama, and clearly differentiated from those of the tribes whom Miss Bleek calls the Northern and Southern groups, their languages being related but only distantly. The investigation was undertaken at the request of the Government of the South-West Protectorate — an encouraging sign — and the material was gathered on two separate visits. It was fortunate that Miss Bleek was able to pay a second visit, for it was only as her acquaintance with the people grew that they became really confidential — an essential condition of success. It is clear from the analysis of their religious beliefs that nothing but an intimate acquaintance, such as Miss Bleek attained, could avail to disentangle the elements of their religion. They show unmistakable evidence of Hottentot, and possibly of Bantu, influence. Miss Bleek herself thinks that their oldest religion is a worship of the moon. There can be little doubt that this is correct.

A Theory of the Solar System. By Percy John Harwood. Part 1. Pp. iii + 94. 10*s*. Part 2. Pp. ii + 64. 5*s*. (Brighton: The Author, Endersby, Ainsworth Avenue, Ovingdean, 1928.)

THIS work is of the type that in some libraries is politely classified as 'paradoxical science.' Among the author's special contributions to the theory of the solar system is the hypothesis that magnetic fields, of the sun, planets, and comets, play a large part in determining the motions of these heavenly bodies; for example, he concludes that "a magnetic cause rather than gravity underlies precessional movement and change of axial inclination" of the earth (p. 66). Again, "The spheroidal forms of sun and planets may be largely due to the magnetic 'globe' that helps to hold them together. Maybe the oblateness of the forms of Saturn and Jupiter is not due entirely to their rapid rotations, but also to the oblate form of a magnetic field on which their highly vaporized and ionized constituents are hung" (p. 19). Another example of the style may be quoted: "With the idea of the sun as an organic unity in view, so that no strong character in his nature is separate in itself but derives its sustenance from the contributions of service extended to it by other members in its body, as they likewise depend on it, the sun as magnet may for the time being be left, to consider what other agencies are operating in this Great Builder of energetic forms" (p. 21). The work, like most of its class, is the product of earnest and industrious labour on a large mass of undigested scientific reading, on which imagination has been allowed to play, unbridled by any attempt at quantitative estimation. The second volume is of a semi-metaphysical character.

Die Vegetation der Schweiz. Von Prof. Dr. H. Brockmann-Jerosch. Zweite Lieferung. (Pflanzengeographische Kommission der Schweizerischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft, Beiträge zur geobotanischen Landesaufnahme, Heft 12.) Pp. 161-288. (Bern: Hans Huber, 1927.) 9 Schw. francs.

THIS is the second section of a work to be completed in four parts. It continues the detailed consideration of the environmental factors affecting vegetation in Switzerland. The details concerning rainfall are completed, and a full account is given of snowfall, snow-covering, dew and hoar-frost, hail, and lightning as they influence the structure and development of plant-life. The factor of temperature is introduced, but the account is incomplete in this part. A compound graph illustrates the alterations in the snow-lines at various stations in the Jura and the Alps throughout the year. An instructive and well-printed coloured map indicates the distribution of the chief kinds of vegetation and types of human exploitation of plant-life in the country. A full discussion of the value of this work must be left until it is complete.

Nova Francia: a Description of Acadia, 1606. By Marc Lescarbot. Translated by P. Erondelle, 1609. (The Broadway Travellers, edited by Sir E. Denison Ross and Eileen Power.) Pp. xxxi + 346. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1928.) 12*s*. 6*d*. net.

LESCARBOT'S "Histoire de la Nouvelle France," published in 1609, was based on a year's personal visit and long business relations, for Lescarbot was a lawyer with one of Sieur de Mont's chief lieutenants at Port Royal. An abridged form of the English translation, which did not include the whole work, appeared in "Purchas His Pilgrimes," 1625. The translation was reprinted in 1745 in the Harleian collection, and again two years later. Since then it has not been reissued until the appearance of this volume. The descriptions of the Indians and of early French life in Canada are full and vivid, and give one of the best pictures existing of Acadia in the seventeenth century. The volume is a useful addition to the excellent series of old travel-books in which it appears.

Tidal Research: the Adaptation of Sir Isaac Newton's Tidal Laws to the Prediction of the Height of High Tides; being an Examination of the Cause of the High Tides at Milford Haven, and their Application to the Heights of the related High Tides at Southampton (1st H.W.), Liverpool, London Bridge (Old Swan Pier), and Southampton (2nd H.W.); the patient collection of Physical Facts by which other Facts are Revealed. By Comdr. John A. Rupert-Jones. Pp. 20. (Southampton: The Author, 57 Westwood Road, 1928.) 5*s*.

THE author claims to deduce the height of high water at Milford Haven by considering the *actual* distance of the moon from that port, to which end a table is provided giving this distance. A comparison is made between the calculated and observed heights.