

## Our Bookshelf.

*The Geology of Venezuela and Trinidad.* By R. A. Liddle. Pp. xxxix + 552 + 85 plates. (Fort Worth, Texas: J. P. MacGowan; London: Thomas Murby and Co., 1928.) 33s. 6d. net.

VENEZUELA is a country now of special interest both in economic and academic geology. In this volume Mr. R. A. Liddle states the facts collected in that country and Trinidad during five years' field work for an American oil company in 1920-25. The book is useful from its mass of facts, which are systematically stated and tabulated. It is illustrated by numerous sketch maps and illustrations. The author shows that the country consists of a basis of metamorphic rocks, which are covered by rare Silurian or Ordovician beds, and some Devonian. An extensive series, which he calls the Old Red Series, from its apparent age, would be more appropriately called the New Red Series. There are no marine Jurassic rocks, but a varied series of Cretaceous, which are covered unconformably by a succession of Eocene. After another unconformity and some Oligocene rocks follows the Miocene, which is described as the characteristic formation of Venezuela. It was followed by great earth movements and uplifts. The Pliocene was a period of erosion, while the Pleistocene in the southern part of the country is a vast tract of alluvium with broad sheets of outwash gravel from the Andes. The author's view that some of the garnetiferous schists are of Cretaceous age is based on evidence that appears quite inadequate. The account of the tectonic structures is not very clear. The bibliography is irregular and inaccurate. Misprints are aggravatingly numerous, but perhaps the author was unable to see proofs. There is no reference to the work of some other geologists who were engaged in Venezuela and Trinidad at the same time.

*Geometrische Optik.* Von Dr. H. Boegehold. (Sammlung Borntraeger, Band 11.) Pp. 375. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1927.) 13.50 gold marks.

So many books have been devoted to the subject of geometrical optics—the principles of which are already well defined—it is often difficult to find much variation in the presentation of the material or justification for its republication; the illustrations have often a too familiar appearance. No charge of this kind can be brought against the "Geometrische Optik" of Dr. Boegehold. If some of the illustrations seem familiar, it is because they have been reproduced from the original works of the pioneers of optics, to whom the elucidation of the principles discussed is originally due. The author has invested a subject which usually involves laborious study with a historical interest, which makes the perusal of the descriptive portions a pleasure.

The mathematical treatment does not require any very special equipment. To some extent this is due to the extensive use of the simple trigonometrical system commonly used by manufacturers. As stated by the author, it is only in the last

chapter that some difficulty may be experienced, owing to the omission of intermediate steps in the development of the formulæ. Students will find the practical examples of trigonometrical computation particularly instructive.

A feature of the work is the association with each diagram and illustration of a clear and concise description. There is provided a list of reference works, both historical and modern, together with a satisfactory subject index. J. W. F.

*Manuel du relieur.* Par J. Lemale. (Bibliothèque Professionnelle.) Pp. 350. (Paris: J. B. Bailière et fils, 1927.) 22 francs.

THIS is a clearly written book by a high authority on practical bookbinding, suitable for amateur or professional. It does not enter into either mass binding or casing for the trade, or the refinements of finishing dear to the high-class amateur. The attempt to illustrate the various manual processes by photography might perhaps have been more successful had the photographs been better reproduced in the printing; as they are, they are less clear than the line drawings in Mr. Cockerell's well-known book.

For English readers, who presumably would be either bookbinders or bibliographers, the most useful parts of the book are likely to be the glossary of technical terms, and the French names for the various sizes of paper and the measurements of the corresponding formats. The diagram explaining the terms applied to the various regions of a bound book is good and clear.

*Flandern.* Von Prof. Dr. Wilfried von Seidlitz. (Die Kriegsschauplätze, 1914-1918, geologisch dargestellt, in 14 Heften, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. J. Wilser, Heft 8.) Pp. viii + 82. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1928.) 10.40 gold marks.

THE exorbitant charge of 10.40 gold marks for this paper-bound pamphlet of 82 pages, with a dozen crude figures in the text, is probably due to some sale being assured as part of a series which contains some important works. The book is a useful summary of the geology of Flanders, and includes an instructive table (pp. 14-15) of the Belgian Kainozoic deposits. The book refers to the military engineering in the War, and to the victory at Messines having been achieved by the British mining having, unnoticed and unheard, deposited a million kilograms of explosive 20 metres below the lowest German counterworks.

*Criminology.* By Horace Wyndham. (Benn's Sixpenny Library, No. 27.) Pp. 79. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1928.) 6d.

THIS small book on criminology is a very interesting and well-composed account of the history of crime mainly in Great Britain. The conditions described even so recently as a hundred years ago will make many people's hair stand on end, and show how urgently penal reform was needed, and, for that matter, still is needed. The author, like many people of the present day, considers that capital punishment should be abolished.