Greenland: its Nature, Inhabitants and History. By Th. N. Krabbe. Translated from the Danish by Annie I. Fausbøll. Pp. xvi + 129 + ix + 170 plates. (Copenhagen: Levin and Munksgarrd; London: Oxford University Press, 1930.) Paper, 33*s*. net; cloth, 40*s*. net.

DR. KRABBE spent the best part of twenty years as a physician in Greenland, during which time he visited most of the inhabited parts. He is thus exceptionally well qualified to give a general account of the country, and particularly its inhabitants and their social conditions. The book, which is printed in parallel columns in Danish and English, gives an admirable survey of the present state of the country and a sketch of its history. It is of interest to note that the native population, under the care of the Danes, has increased from 10,000 in 1886 to more than 14,000 in 1926.

The chief value of the volume, however, lies in its beautiful illustrations. The numerous plates, which are provided with full descriptions, give a pictorial survey of Greenland on a scale that no other volume has attempted. Many of the settlements are illustrated and the inhabitants receive special attention. There are also fifty portraits of men who have been closely connected with the exploration of the country. A full index and a good map add to the value of the volume.

R. N. R. B.

Shipways to the Sea: our Inland and Coastal Waterways. By Ernest S. Clowes. Pp. viii + 196 + 6 plates. (Baltimore, Md.: Williams and Wilkins Co.; London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1929.) 20*s*. net.

THE author of this excellent survey of the waterways of the United States, and, in part, Canada, believes that the development of inland navigation is needed to solve many of the problems of cheap and efficient transport in America. He develops this idea particularly in regard to the Mississippi basin and the interior plains of the United States. The book, however, is not merely a piece of propaganda. It embraces a historical, geographical, and economic survey of all the existing navigable rivers, canals, and lakes with a wealth of useful statistics. Projects in hand and dreams of the future are also discussed. The consideration of the proposed St. Lawrence waterway for ocean-going vessels is particularly valuable, because it appears to be free from the political bias which affects most discussions of this subject. The volume contains a few maps, but they should have been clearer and more numerous.

Open-Air Studies in Australia. By Frederick Chapman. Pp. xx + 170 + 23 plates. (London and Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., 1929.) 10*s*. 6*d*. net.

FOR full appreciation of this series of essays, personal acquaintance with the soil and scenery of Australia are necessary. Nevertheless, the fundamental principles involved are of such universal application, and the allusions to features within the British Isles so frequent, that the reader who has a taste for open-air geology can be assured of interest in every chapter. Incidentally, attention may be directed to the chapter "The Problem of the Coral Island", and the discussion of the results of the Funafuti Expedition. Most of the illustrations are excellent, but a few are inconveniently small.

Mathematics.

Mathematics Preparatory to Statistics and Finance. By George N. Bauer. Pp. vii + 337. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1929.) 8*s*. 6*d*. net.

THE flood of elementary treatises dealing with statistics continues unabated; nearly all seem to be designed to aid students whose subjects are known or believed to require statistical methods, but who have already decided that they have neither the time nor the mathematical training to make themselves masters of the simple principles on which competent methods are founded. The authors of these heroic stopgaps cannot fairly be blamed for this situation; so long as the large portion of the population which will need statistics in its practical business does not imbibe the fundamental ideas in their school mathematics, so long will university students require such courses as that under review. The author shows a just perspective in saying (Preface, p. v):

"This is not a book dealing with the subject of statistics; neither does it attempt to present the subject of the mathematics of finance. It is a study of the simpler mathematical methods and principles that occur frequently in elementary courses in these subjects. But many of the principles and methods included are applicable to the study of phenomena in other fields. They have a wide range of usefulness."

The range of usefulness would certainly be greater if care had been taken to use common expressions in the sense which they bear in more advanced work. On p. 252 the 'standard error of an estimate' is spoken of as a test of 'goodness of fit'. This it certainly is not. The confusion which here lies in wait for those adventurous souls who ultimately win through to real tests of goodness of fit, is made worse by the fact that the standard error under discussion is not the standard error of the estimated regression, but a rather unsatisfactory estimate of the standard deviation from a regression formula.

Within its own limits, however, the book makes the subject easy. Explanations and examples are careful and abundant.

R. A. FISHER.

Mathematical Tables and Formulas. By Prof. Percey F. Smith and Prof. William Raymond Longley. Pp. v + 66. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1929.) 8*s*. net.

THIS collection of tables, mostly to four figures, contains logarithms, square and cubes, square and cube roots, reciprocals, Napierian logarithms and trigonometrical tables. No differences are given. In addition, there is a three-figure radian table giving the six natural trigonometrical functions for arguments up to 3·20. This and the corresponding table of exponentials and hyperbolic functions are

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