

to the Study of the Diatomaceæ", by F. W. Mills and Julien Deby, published by Iliffe and Son in 1893, which contains a valuable bibliography of diatom literature up to that date. When referring to Meister's "Die Kiesalgen der Schweiz", it is not made sufficiently clear that the work deals only with fresh-water species. A list of monographs on various genera and books relating to the diatom flora of special areas adds to the usefulness of the chapter.

A review of the genera of diatoms, with authors' names, and dates when the genera were established, is a chapter of the book that will prove of great service to historical students of the Diatomaceæ. References are also given to the principal works in which the genera may be found. No pains seem to have been spared to make this list as complete as possible, and an addendum to the chapter adds additional genera and references. This chapter is probably the best and most useful in the book. A good index is provided. G. T. HARRIS.

#### Our Bookshelf.

*Mathematical Geography.* By Prof. A. H. Jameson and Prof. M. T. M. Ormsby. Vol. 2: *Simple Astronomical and Trigonometric Surveying, and the more Advanced Study of Map Projections.* Pp. viii + 160. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., 1929.) 6s. net.

THE comment made in this journal on Volume 1 of this work was that it would be welcomed by geographers for its scope and clarity. The second volume has now appeared, and continues the treatment of map projections more fully and completes the course which the authors set out to cover. Vol. 2 deals principally with the astronomical determination of position on the earth, more advanced surveying, and a progressive advanced treatment of map projections. The influence of the spheroidal shape of the earth on map projections is also dealt with.

The book is in general clearly written and, in spite of its more advanced character, easy to follow. The illustrations are clear and suited to the requirements, although one may enter a protest against Fig. 33 and the elaborate dual deductions which follow therefrom. The section on photographic surveying, unfortunately, is only sufficient to indicate where a satisfactory treatment is to be obtained. Surely such a modern development was well within the scope of the work, and was deserving of more adequate handling.

Care has been taken in the preparation of the book—a feature evidenced by the freedom of the text from error. The examples and exercises which are included in the work are an additional commendation. This volume will be added to the list of useful books by all who are interested or concerned in this subject. J. ELING COLECLOUGH.

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*The Flood: New Light on an Old Story.* By Harold Peake. Pp. x + 124. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 5s. net.

MR. PEAKE'S book on the Flood is an account, intended primarily for a popular audience, of the bearing of recent archæological investigation on the legend of an all-destroying deluge. This legend is world-wide in its distribution; but it is best known in the version given in the Book of Genesis. The author accepts the view that a common origin for the various legends is not probable, but the Hebrew version was most certainly derived from the Mesopotamian epic of Gilgamesh brought back to Palestine after the Captivity. The discovery at both Ur and Kish of a stratum of clay of a thickness which could only be due to a considerable inundation has given reasonable ground for believing that the legend has here preserved a record of an historical event. With this as the basis of his argument, Mr. Peake expounds for the benefit of the public he has in view the wider question of the bearing of recent archæological research on the historicity of events once regarded as entirely mythical, but of which the record may now be regarded as enshrining an element of truth.

Although Mr. Peake's book is primarily intended to be of popular interest, scholars cannot afford to neglect it, for his account of the pre- and post-diluvian culture of Mesopotamia is suggestive in its interpretation of the difficulties which at present offer puzzles for the archæologist. Most ingenious of all, perhaps, and indeed a *vera causa*, is his suggestion that the discrepancies between the records and the archæological evidence relating to the early dynasties of Ur may have arisen from a misplacement of the tablets when the lists of the kings were copied.

*The Book of Electrical Wonders.* By Ellison Hawks. Pp. 316 + 41 plates. (London, Bombay and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 7s. 6d. net.

ELECTRICITY has so many applications, and it is so much in evidence everywhere, that it may be presumed that few of the rising generation of boys and girls are without some knowledge of batteries, dynamos, telephones, and vacuum tubes. If the elementary principles are clearly explained, even the most complicated electrical machinery lends itself to popular exposition, and there is ample room for well-written books such as that by Mr. Hawks. Within the space of some 300 pages he has been able to include a great deal of interesting matter regarding power stations, electric lighting, electric furnaces and welding, telephones, telegraphs, radio communication, X-rays, photo-telegraphy and television. There are no fewer than 41 plates and 91 illustrations. It is a book which will no doubt find its way into the hands of many boys, and it is essentially one to be included in the school library. In the preface Mr. Hawks says that Faraday's annual salary probably never exceeded £100. One is happy to think Faraday was paid more than that, and moreover, had he been so minded, he might have made a fortune.