

ferro-concrete bridges, and suspension bridges. The aim of the book in the first place is to meet the needs of the average civil engineer, who requires some knowledge of bridge design, and of the examination candidate. It covers the ground in a plain, straightforward manner. The use of higher mathematics has been avoided so far as possible, the diagrams are clear, and there are numerous references to recent bridge construction as described in the *Engineer*, *Engineering*, and other journals.

Geography.

Cornwall: a Survey of its Coast, Moors and Valleys, with Suggestions for the Preservation of Amenities. Prepared by W. Harding Thompson for the Cornwall Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. With Notes on the Antiquities of Cornwall, by Charles Henderson. Pp. xix + 130 + 42 plates. (London: University of London Press, Ltd., 1930.) 17s. 6d. net.

ANOTHER handsome, well-illustrated quarto has been added to the library dealing with the preservation of English landscape. The suggestions of most general importance are those relating to the coast. Support is given (so far as concerns Cornwall) to the proposals which have been made to the National Park Committee, that in Cornwall and the opposite peninsula of Pembrokeshire the National Coast Parks of Britain should be situated. In the opinion of the authors of the Cornwall survey, "The formation of a National Coastal Park would afford lasting benefit to visitors from urban centres, and incidentally it would benefit a county suffering from acute industrial depression".

The frontages for coastal parks, shown in a special map, are nearly the same as those suggested in my evidence to the National Park Committee and my book upon the subject; but the authors of the present survey have improved upon those suggestions in one important particular, namely, by extending farther inland the proposed coast park on the west of St. Ives, so as to include the district of prehistoric monuments which here, as in the Pembrokeshire promontories, add greatly to the romantic interest of the scene. The recommendation also that steps should be taken "with a view to keeping open a public footpath all round the coasts of Cornwall" is welcome. This is, indeed, a matter which should engage the immediate attention of local authorities in every maritime county.

VAUGHAN CORNISH.

Grundzüge der Physiogeographie. Mit Benutzung von W. M. Davis *Physical Geography* und der deutschen Ausgaben; zum Gebrauch beim Studium und auf Exkursionen. Neu bearbeitet von Prof. Dr. Gustav Braun. Band 1: *Spezielle Physiogeographie.* Pp. xii + 178. 8 gold marks. Band 2: *Allgemeine vergleichende Physiogeographie.* Dritte Auflage. Pp. xii + 256. 10 gold marks. (Leipzig und Berlin: B. G. Teubner, 1930.)

PROF. BRAUN has based this small text-book of physical geography on the well-known volume of Prof. W. M. Davis which first appeared in 1889

and afterwards was translated into German. The work has undergone thorough revision, which entailed rewriting several of the sections, including those on weather and climate. It covers the whole groundwork of the subject, including the distribution of vegetation. Some of the original illustrations remain, but many are new or derived from various sources, and their excellence is one of the best features of the book. Particular attention has been paid to reference to original sources and each section has copious reference to books and papers. A glossary of English and German technical terms is a useful addition. The book should prove of great value to students, and fully equals any work of the same standard now available in English.

Death Valley: the Facts. By W. A. Chalfant. Pp. ix + 155 + 16 plates. (Stanford University, Calif.: Stanford University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1930.) 16s. net.

Grand Canyon Country. By M. R. Tillotson and Frank J. Taylor. Pp. viii + 108 + 15 plates. (Stanford University, Calif.: Stanford University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1929.) 9s. net.

THESE two small and beautifully produced volumes, although they bear no indication of belonging to any series, have considerable resemblance in their point of view and scope. Neither deals with new material nor is in the nature of a personal narrative, but both give useful summaries of facts of history and physical conditions. They are, in short, handbooks of scientific information. The volume on the Death Valley is the fullest and contains useful chapters on plant and animal life, in addition to sections on physical geography and geology. Each volume has some well-chosen photographic illustrations and a 'cartograph' or pictorial map printed on the end papers. That of the Grand Canyon country is so full of whimsical pictures scattered over the map that a popular use of the volume is suggested. The Death Valley map has no flights in imagination.

Geology.

Geochemie in ausgewählten Kapiteln. Von W. J. Vernadsky. Autorisierte Übersetzung aus dem Russischen von Dr. E. Kordes. Pp. xii + 370. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1930.) 25 gold marks.

CLARKE'S invaluable "Data of Geochemistry" is justly so highly esteemed, especially in English-speaking countries, that there has been a natural tendency to regard it not only as an indispensable compilation of data but also as a standard exposition of geochemistry itself. Only recently has this tendency been checked by growing acquaintance with the brilliant work of Fersman, Vernadsky, and Goldschmidt. A most useful and illuminating little book was published in French by Vernadsky in 1924 under the title "La Géochimie". In 1927 a revised translation appeared in Russian, and now a third and greatly enlarged