

as the southern coasts of Ireland and England. One-third of the fauna, twelve species, exhibit affinities with the present-day Siberian and eastern European fauna and are considered to represent the result of an invasion of the steppe fauna, originating in the Angara continent. This invasion may have happened either after the last glaciation or, possibly, immediately before it.

M. E. Mosely presents a survey of British Trichoptera, but abstains from zoogeographical deductions, while stressing the importance of the ecological factors in their distribution.

The Heteropteran fauna is analysed by W. E. China, who recognises in it the Lusitanian, or Atlantic, the American, the Arctic, and the Germanic elements, these being the groups distinguished by Scharff in his well-known work on European animals. Certain members of the Lusitanian group are xerothermic in their ecological requirements, but their present distribution elsewhere makes it highly probable that they have survived through the glacial periods on the spot, in sheltered situations. Most of the species of the American group should be properly referred to the Angara fauna, to which the larger portion of the Germanic group also belongs, but there are species occurring only in America and in western Europe, including the British Isles, but not in Russia or Siberia. Definite relationship to the American fauna is also shown in the Arctic group. Insular variations in British Heteroptera are unimportant and few in number. Out of six endemic species, three are doubtful, while the remaining three are probably Atlantic relics.

A brief review of British Lepidoptera, by L. Dupont, stresses the poverty of the British fauna and the presence of a considerable number of local forms, many of them being melanistic. No zoogeographical analysis is attempted by this author.

A discussion of the beetle fauna, by J. Sainte-Claire Deville, one of the best authorities on the zoogeography of European Coleoptera, is highly interesting and instructive, being illustrated by a series of twenty-four distributional maps. One of the main conclusions of this author is that there are no sufficient reasons to believe that the Quaternary glaciation exterminated the original fauna. On the contrary, a number of species of southern origin (Mediterranean) have certainly survived the glaciation.

The last two articles of the volume deal with the flora. J. Cardot discusses the mosses, and reveals the interesting fact that there is a very close relationship between the bryophyte flora of the British Isles and that of the Atlantic islands (Canaries, Madeira, and Azores). There are even several species which do not occur elsewhere, while certain species occur besides in the subtropics only. The author, however, attributes their appearance in the British Isles to the distribution of spores by air, after the Quaternary glaciation, which in his opinion has wiped out all mosses except some boreal species.

A. J. Wilmott in his thorough analysis of the British phanerogamic flora arrives at the opposite conclusion, which is based on a critical discussion of geological facts and theories, of the evidence derived from the study of the Quaternary fossil plants, and of the present distribution of floristic elements. He believes that the climate of the glacial periods could not have been so severe as to exterminate the original flora completely, and there is every reason to think that the relatively mild and humid climate of Atlantic type prevailed at least in some sheltered situations of the south-west of Ireland and England, thus permitting the survival of aboriginal plants. As we have seen, this conclusion agrees well with the opinions of the majority of the contributors to this interesting volume.

The Name of Mount Everest.

MOUNT EVEREST was first observed by the Survey of India in 1849, but it was not until three years later that its great height was realised. From the plains of India it is only one among many conspicuous peaks, and its distance from the Indian frontier across the whole width of Nepal often prevents its being seen at all. In these circumstances, it was not surprising to find that there was no Indian name for the peak. The first names proposed were the Nepalese names Devadhunga and Gaurisankar. The first, however, was found to be non-existent as a peak name in Nepal, and the second belongs to another peak. There was no entry of the surveyors into Tibet in those days, and, in the lack of Indian and Nepalese names, it was necessary to find a title for the peak. This was done in 1865 by naming it after Sir George Everest, of the Trigonometrical Survey of India.

The controversy about the name was discussed by Major S. G. Burrard in *NATURE*,¹ and is now reopened by Dr. Sven Hedin in his recent German book on Mount Everest. Sir Sidney Burrard replies to these suggestions in a paper recently issued by the Survey of India.² Dr. Hedin maintains that the mountain was first shown on D'Anville's map of Tibet published in Paris in 1733. This was based on a survey made between 1711 and 1717 by Chinese lamas instructed by Jesuits in Peking, and was until about a century ago the only map of Tibet. The identification of Mount Everest on this map is very doubtful. A range of great heights is shown at right angles to the actual

alignment of the peaks of the region. Located in terms of the river valleys, which the lamas portrayed more accurately than the mountains, this range is forty miles distant from Mount Everest. Moreover, there is no indication that the lamas were aware of an exceptionally high peak in that region. Thus, there are no grounds for using the lamas' name of Chomo Lungma for Mount Everest, as Dr. Hedin suggests.

Attempts to discover a Tibetan name for the mountain have resulted in five names being found. Each has merely local use and not one has any general acceptance although the mountain is a conspicuous feature from several parts of Tibet. One of these names is certainly Chomo Lungma, but it would appear to have restricted use and to be applied to both Everest and Makalu: in fact, it is applied to an area rather than a peak.

In these circumstances, there is no justification for displacing the name of Everest. It has always been the practice of the Survey of India to use local names when these have been in existence. Everest is probably the only departure from this principle, but it is a departure that was unavoidable. Even if a Tibetan name in general use were revealed, it would be of doubtful value to replace a name that has now become universally known and accepted. No possible benefit could result from such a change.

¹ *NATURE*, Nov. 10, 1904.

² Survey of India. Professional Paper No. 26: Mount Everest and its Tibetan Names; a Review of Sir Sven Hedin's Book. By Col. Sir Sidney Burrard. Pp. ii+18. (Dehra Dun: Survey of India, 1931.) 8 annas; 10d.