

or to the English Lakes at wet Eastertide, and it need scarcely be said that it should form one of the few books included in the restricted luggage for a cruise, that is, if the voyager wishes to behold with seeing eyes.

The fine illustrations are not the least attractive part of the work. E. F. A.

*Der Kilimandjaro : sein Land und seine Menschen.* Von Dr. Walter Geilinger. Pp. 182 + 95 Tafeln. (Bern und Berlin : Hans Huber, 1931.) 15 francs ; 12 gold marks.

THE author, a doctor in Zurich, visited East Africa in 1928–29 and ascended Kilima Njaro, the highest of African mountains. His book contains a short, interesting account of the country and its people, and conveys a pleasing impression of the author's ecstatic enjoyment of the beauties and wonders seen during his tour. He combines his own observations with information from general literature, in the list of which British authorities occupy a fair share. Special features are dealt with in a series of useful appendices, including those on the flora, topography, and geological history of Kilima Njaro. The author's main interest was in the flora and forest trees and the contribution of the vegetation to the scenery of the district.

The text is general and popular, and gives a good picture of the present conditions of the country. The most valuable feature of the book is its illustrations, including 156 photographs and 4 coloured plates. Most of the photographs are by the author and are of the trees, more conspicuous plants, the natives, the glaciers and ice formations on Kilima Njaro, the giraffes, antelopes, and other big game. The illustrations form a graphic and useful record of the natural history of the mountain and its surrounding plains. The name of the mountain is spelt Kilimandjaro on the title page and in the text and Kilima Njaro on the cover. The one drawback of the book is the absence of an index, which would have been especially useful in regard to the flora.

*Alarms and Excursions in Arabia.* By Bertram Thomas. Pp. 296 + 24 plates. (London : George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1931.) 15s. net.

THE geographical area covered by Mr. Thomas's book is wider than the title indicates. Of the 'adventures' which he records—and no other name would describe them so exactly—two out of the five have Mesopotamia as their setting and the three others southern Arabia, after he had been appointed Vizier of the Sultan of Oman and Muscat. Although the interest of the first two is essentially that of a record of a difficult military and political situation, Mr. Thomas's insight into the character of the tribal Arab gives it an added value for those who appreciate the significance of racial characteristics in their bearing on the task we have undertaken in Mesopotamia. Of his work and travels in Arabia the scientific results have already been published in the *Geographical Journal* and elsewhere. Here Mr. Thomas gives his readers the lighter side—fighting and politics—and here and there intriguing

thumb-nail sketches of customs and beliefs. His book throws an interesting sidelight on the conditions in which his valuable additions to our geographical and ethnological knowledge of Arabia have been made. The recent award of the Burton Memorial Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society to the author is a fitting and well-deserved recognition of his work in the Great Sandy Desert.

### Geology.

*Central Asiatic Expeditions. The Permian of Mongolia : a Report on the Permian Fauna of the Jisu Honguer Limestone of Mongolia and its relations to the Permian of other parts of the World.* By Prof. Amadeus W. Grabau. With a Chapter on the Relations of the Jisu Honguer Formation to the General Geology of Mongolia, by Dr. Charles P. Berkey and Frederick K. Morris. (Natural History of Central Asia, Vol. 4.) Pp. xliii + 665 + 35 plates. (New York and London : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1931.) 42s. net.

WITH the exception of a chapter on the general geology of Mongolia by C. P. Berkey and F. K. Morris, this work is devoted to a detailed account of the fauna of the Jisu Honguer limestone of southern Mongolia, with a discussion of its age and relationship to similar faunas of other regions, more particularly to Russia and India. Brachiopods are the predominating group in the fauna ; of these, no less than 99 species and varieties are recognised, belonging principally to the spiriferids, the productids, and the streptorhynchids, with the remarkable form *Richthofenia*. The Mollusca are relatively few in number, there being only 19 species and varieties of gasteropods and 17 of lamellibranchs. Noteworthy features are the rarity of corals and Polyzoa and the absence of Foraminifera, echinoderms, trilobites, and cephalopods. To account for this limitation of the fauna, combined with signs of dwarfing shown by many of the brachiopods, the author suggests that the salinity of the water was below normal, and compares the conditions with those now existing in Pechili Bay, a nearly enclosed area freshened by the waters of the Yellow River, where some groups of organisms usually abundant in the open sea are rare or wholly wanting.

The Jisu Honguer is correlated with the Uralian of Russia and the Productus Limestone of India. By most geologists the Uralian is regarded as of Upper Carboniferous age, but Prof. Grabau gives reasons for assigning it to the Lower Permian.

*Lehrbuch der Geologie. Teil 3 : Geologische Länderkunde. (Regionale Geologie.)* Von Prof. Dr. F. X. Schaffer. Lieferung 1. Pp. vii + 96. (Leipzig und Wien : Franz Deuticke, 1930.) 6 gold marks.

THE third volume of the "Textbook of Geology", by Prof. Schaffer, Director of the Geological and Palæontological Department of the Vienna Museum, is devoted to regional geology. The first part includes the general introduction, illustrated by a map of the world showing the author's conclusions