

both teachers and students to amplify the information on any particular subject. The printing and lay-out are very good and the book is pleasing in appearance; the price is very reasonable.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL

Transport in Many Lands

By W. Robert Foran. Pp. 260. (London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co. Ltd., 1939.) 7s. 6d. net.

MR. FORAN'S "Transport in Many Lands" is not, as its title may seem to suggest, a systematic account of the various methods of transport practised by different peoples, but to the general reader it will probably prove more entertaining. It is a record of personal experience and observation, more especially in the indulgence of a personal preference for animal transport, in the course of some forty years of travel in many of the remoter quarters of the globe. The elephant holds pride of place, both as a worker in the teak forests of the East, and as an impressive member of the pageantry of eastern princes. Some of the instances of its intelligence when logging timber are indeed, as the author describes them, almost 'uncanny'. Next to the elephant comes the camel, which as Mr. Foran points out, when discussing ancient trade routes, is one of the most ancient forms of animal transport on an economic scale employed by man. One of the most surprising uses, to which the author has put it, is as a mount for polo in Egypt. Apparently the experience was enjoyable. Following on the llama in South America and yak in Tibet, Mr. Foran deals with pack animals, the horse, mule and donkey, and then reindeer, oxen, and dogs, concluding with a chapter devoted to some of the strange vehicles and methods of transport he has seen, in which the power of man himself is harnessed. It is perhaps scarcely necessary to point out in reference to Mr. Foran's account of the reindeer that the Samoyedes and Ostiak of Siberia are not Eskimo.

In his forty years of observation Mr. Foran has witnessed a vast extension of European methods of transport among backward peoples in the use of the car and the bicycle. Nevertheless he shows how, under the influence of environment and tradition, old-fashioned methods still in many regions maintain their vitality, and usually for good reason.

L'Asie centrale soviétique et le Kazakhstan

Par Charles Steber. Pp. 302. (Paris: Editions Sociales Internationales, 1939.) 35 francs.

THE part of Central Asia formerly known vaguely as Russian Turkestan and now comprising several autonomous republics of the Soviet Union is little known and is treated mainly in books which lack recent information. For the main part, it is an area of vast and somewhat arid plains extending southward from Siberia and eastward from the European plain, but it comprises also the mountainous little explored area in which lie much of the Pamirs and allied ranges. Formerly it was a land of sparse

population and nomadic tribes, but all that is changing. Soviet influence has begun to develop its resources on a large scale. Irrigation, where possible, has led to agriculture, and the cotton output, not to say its manufacture, is already considerable. Public works, roads, railways and schools have been built, and even in the remoter mountain areas Russian influence is spreading. The author of this small but informative volume gives a clear record of the land and its progress, although his physical introduction is somewhat brief. There are simple but adequate maps and many references to authorities.

GEOLOGY

Elements of Geology

With Reference to North America. By Prof. William J. Miller. Second edition. Pp. x+524. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1939.) 21s. net.

ALTHOUGH prepared primarily for American students, Prof. Miller's text-book is written in such a simple and interesting style and is so well illustrated that it should have a wide appeal. Indeed, the author arouses interest in the science at the outset, for he takes the novel course of describing, in his opening chapter, the evidence for upward and downward movements of the earth's crust and the phenomena of earthquakes—both subjects not too remote from everyday life. Thence he leads the reader to the study of minerals and rocks, weathering, rock-structure, and the work of rivers, glaciers, wind, the sea, underground water, and volcanoes. The development of scenery is also simply described. Having regard to the vast accumulation of data relating to these subjects, every author of a text-book must decide what to omit: and here Prof. Miller's selection seems to have been judicious.

The second half of the volume is concerned with historical geology and, except for the penultimate chapter on Cenozoic life, has reference only to North America. Dull stratigraphical details are avoided so far as possible and full use is made of palaeogeographical maps. The section on early man in the chapter on Cenozoic life has necessarily, however, been largely compiled from the records found in the Old World, and here the author is rather less happy in his summary than elsewhere in the book. A study of articles recently published in NATURE would afford him material help, and the author might find it worth while to seek the assistance of some geological and archæological friends in Europe in wending his way through the tangle of conflicting accounts of the history of man. The volume is of such quality as to justify the effort.

Ground Water

By Prof. C. F. Tolman. Pp. xvii+593. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1937.) 36s.

THIS book makes a notable addition to the literature of ground-water hydrology. The author assumes the reader to possess an elementary knowledge of geology and of hydraulic engineering,