

account. This does not detract from the value of the work as a presentation of the 'dynamics of the human organism,' but it certainly does seriously lower its value to the student of mental disease or of psychology in general.

The great desideratum of a work on the relations of body and mind that shall do justice to all the various lines of advance along which research is progressing, and shall succeed in unifying the presentation thus given with perhaps a proper historic setting, remains for the work of another hand. Whether or not the time is ripe for such a contribution is certainly an open question.

Beiträge zur Geophysik. Abhandlungen aus dem geographischen Seminar der Universität Strassburg. Ed. by Prof. G. Gerland. Vol. I. Stuttgart, Schweizerbart. 8°.

THE present volume is of great interest, even setting aside the scientific value of the papers contained in it. It illustrates the method of geography-teaching at German universities better than any elaborate description could do. As indicated in the title, it contains the results of researches of members of the geographical *Seminar*. The object of these institutions, which exist at every German university, is to teach students the methods of original investigation. The volume under review shows that this method leads to very valuable results. In the introduction, Professor Gerland gives his views on the aim and scope of geography. He is one of the few geographers who would exclude altogether what has been called 'anthropogeography' from the field of geographical researches. We believe that the author, one of Germany's most eminent ethnologists, was led to this conclusion by his intimate knowledge of the methods of ethnology. Recognizing that the latter are anthropologic, psychologic, or linguistic, he has no confidence in the generalizing speculations on the influence of the character of a country upon its inhabitants. On the other hand, he does not consider the methods of geology, so far as they are founded on paleontology, as the proper field of geographical studies, and confines the latter to the study of the problems of geophysics; i. e., the study of the physical and chemical forces as acting upon the earth. The essays contained in this volume treat exclusively this class of problems. Dr. H. Blink contributes an elaborate paper on the winds and currents of the region of the Lesser Sunda Islands, which he tries to explain according to Zöppritz's theory of currents and by considering the tides of this region. The influence of accumulations of polar ice during the glacial period is ably discussed by Dr. H. Hergesell. He shows that the changes in the levels of the sea are far too great to be explained by the attraction of polar ice and by the decrease of the amount of ocean-water, caused by their formation. The same author shows that it is extremely improbable that a river could reverse its course by the attractive action of the ice of the glacial period. The concluding paper of the volume is a discussion and compilation on submarine earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, by Dr. E. Rudolph, which is accompanied by very interesting maps. The author's discussion of the theory of the earthquake-waves is of great importance. These brief remarks show both that the volume contains papers of great importance, and the high standard of the work done in the seminary of the University of Strassburg. It may be expected that the subsequent volumes will be of equal interest and importance.

The Geological History of Plants. By SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON. New York, Appleton. 12°.

THE student of plant-history will find in this volume a compact statement of much of our present knowledge of palæobotany, — a department of science in which the author has for many years occupied a distinguished position as an original investigator. A work of the kind here presented has long been needed, and cannot but meet with much favor from those who have earnestly and often vainly attempted to unite the fragmentary chapters that are found scattered throughout geological treatises and disconnected reports of learned societies. The individual chapters of the book before us not only treat of the geological succession of plant-forms throughout the various geological periods, but enter into a discussion of the structure of the more prominent types of fossil plants, geographical distribution, the conditions attending appearance and extinction, climatic changes, and the evolution of specific types.

The consideration of the theoretical questions constitutes the weakest portion of the work, and probably many will agree that the omission of much that it contains would have proved an advantage rather than otherwise. Professor Dawson apparently is still an anti-evolutionist, as the following quotation (p. 268), unfortunately of that character which bespeaks determined opposition to an idea, seems to show: "I can conceive nothing more unreasonable than the statement sometimes made, that it is illogical or even absurd to suppose that highly organized beings could have been produced except by derivation from previously existing organisms. This is begging the whole question at issue, depriving science of a noble department of inquiry," etc. And further, on p. 271, we find clearly stated his adherence in belief to "something not unlike the old and familiar idea of creation."

Sir William finds much difficulty in explaining non-variation through time on any evolutionary hypothesis of slow modification, and, as one of his *points de résistance*, refers to the oft-quoted identity existing between the plants of the Egyptian tombs and species now living, — a point which has also been forcibly insisted upon by Mr. Carruthers, president of the Linnæan Society; but why we should have expected to find a change in such a comparatively brief period is not stated.

Whatever position the author himself may hold in the matter of evolution, it appears more than likely that the intelligent student of his work will agree with a recent critic that "the evolution of species from species is apparent in every page of Sir J. W. Dawson's work."

Yankee Girls in Zulu Land. By LOUISE VESCELIUS-SHELDON. New York, Worthington. 12°. \$2.25.

THE author tells the experiences of three American ladies traveling in South Africa in so charming a style and good humor, and with such vividness, that it is very pleasant and instructive to follow her on her adventurous expeditions through the Cape Colony and the Dutch republics. While her description of Cape Town, of its European, Malayan, and African inhabitants, attracts us, the book becomes even more interesting when she describes her journey by stage-coach from Beaufort to the diamond-mines of Kimberley, and the social life at this place. From Kimberley they visited Potchefstroom and Pretoria in Transvaal, which was at the time of their visit occupied by the English. The author describes the prevailing discontent, and is full of praise of the beauties of the Transvaal. She is equally enchanted by the inhabitants and climate of the Orange Free State. From here the enterprising ladies made a long journey by ox-wagon; and the character of the land, the violent thunder-storms and sudden floods, are so graphically described, that the reader will feel well repaid. The attractiveness of the book is principally founded on the simplicity of the manner in which the author's experiences are told. Although it is not filled with statistics and treatises on the forms of government, it creates, by the truthfulness of the descriptions, a vivid and instructive picture of the forms of life and state of affairs in South Africa.

Irish Wonders. By D. R. MCANALLY, Jun. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., 1888. 8°. \$2.

THE author, who paid a lengthy visit to Ireland, in course of which he traversed the island from end to end, has collected a considerable amount of Irish folk-lore, which he presents in this volume. Most of the tales are attached to certain places which the author visited, and, according to his statement, they are told in the same form in which the Irish story-teller told them: "Go where you will in Ireland, the story-teller is there, and on slight provocation will repeat his narrative; amplifying, explaining, embellishing, till from a single fact a connected history is evolved, giving motives, particulars, action, and result, the whole surrounded by a rosy wealth of rustic imagery and told with dramatic force an actor might envy." The story-tellers who told Mr. McAnally these legends mixed a good deal of politics with their tales, abusing the English landlord, and pleading for home rule. The author inserts the tunes and texts of a number of songs in his book, which are of considerable interest, the fairy dance on p. 26 being of particular value. The piano accompaniment of the song on p. 164 can hardly be approved. The book contains a number of legends referring to Satan and the saints, others on the pooka, fairies, and