

teenth century, in which the causes of that event and of the ultimate failure of the Commonwealth are stated with clearness and true historical insight. Indeed, we think most of his readers will agree that he would have done better to have spent more of his time on history and politics, and less on the inculcation of the Hegelian philosophy.

Ancient Rome. By RODOLFO LANCIANI. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 8°. \$6.

THE comprehensive description of the results of modern archaeological researches in Rome by Professor Lanciani in the beautifully printed and illustrated volume under review is a publication of great interest and value. The author, who is director of excavations for the Italian Government and the municipality of Rome, describes the results of his labors with such vividness and enthusiasm, that he at once imparts to the reader the keenest interest in his subject. In the preface the history of the work that is going on now is sketched. The improvements undertaken in modern Rome, which of course cannot but necessitate the destruction of a few monuments, have been the subject of numerous attacks upon the Roman authorities, which the author refutes one by one, showing that the growth of the large city, and the requirements of the present inhabitants, made sanitary improvements imperative, and that these very improvements have been made in judicious consideration of the interests of archæology, and that they have yielded archæological results of greater importance than were obtained in any previous period. In the first chapter the history of the destruction of ancient and mediæval monuments is traced, illustrated by views of parts of Rome reproduced from old descriptions.

In the second chapter we are led back to the time of the foundation of Rome, which the author proves to have taken place in the bronze period, by shepherds from the Albanese hills. The remains of stone implements, bronze weapons and coins, and rough earthenware, are described. The development of sanitary measures, the building of the aqueduct and drains, is next described, and the author's views are substantiated by the descriptions of the ruined works and by translations of interesting inscriptions.

We cannot follow the author in the details of his great work, which gives a vivid picture of life in ancient Rome in the light of the most recent archæological discoveries. He has selected only the most significant and valuable material from among the rich treasures intrusted to his care, for proving his views and theories. The publishers have spared no expense in order to make the volume as valuable and attractive as possible. The work cannot be excelled as a comprehensive and popular review of the results of archæological studies in Rome.

B. C. 1887. A Ramble in British Columbia. By J. A. LEES and W. J. CLUTTERBUCK. London and New York, Longmans, Green, & Co. 12°. \$2.25.

IN the present volume the authors describe a hunting-trip from the Canadian to the Northern Pacific, up the Columbia and down the Kootenay Rivers. The book is beautifully printed, and illustrated by excellent photo-engravings reproduced from sketches and photographs of the authors. Those who are interested in angling, hunting, and other sport, and in *menus* of the dinners the travelers enjoyed on various parts of their journey, will find the book very interesting reading; but the illustrations make it valuable also to other readers. The authors succeeded in encountering the most marvellous adventures, particularly when they reached American soil, all of which are illustrative of the low state of culture in which our western Territories, as compared to British Columbia, are. If we take the authors' description *cum grano salis*, it is a good description of what travelling in the Kootenay valley under unfavorable circumstances might be. The good luck of the authors in having many marvellous adventures makes the book very interesting reading, and welcome to lovers of books of travel.

Die Gletscher der Ostalpen. By Dr. E. RICHTER. Stuttgart, J. Engelhorn. 8°. \$3.

THE present volume belongs to the series of manuals of German geography published at the instance and under the direction of the commission for studies on the geography of Germany, which

also edits the interesting 'Forschungen zur Deutschen Landes- und Volkskunde.' Dr. Richter has compiled a large amount of material on the glaciers of the eastern Alps, his material being principally derived from the map of the Austrian War Department. In an introduction the author discusses the methods of determining the limit of eternal snow, and adopts the principle first applied by Brückner, who collates data on summits which nearly reach the limit of eternal snow, but have no accumulations of snow and ice on exposed slopes, and such data on mountains which have small snow-fields and glaciers. He concludes that the snow-line is intermediate between the heights of the summits of these mountains. Dr. Richter discusses this method very fully, and later on applies it to the eastern Alps. We cannot enter into his interesting descriptions of glaciers and of their advance and retrogression, but call attention to an important result of his investigations, that the central parts of the Alps have a higher level snow-line than the northern and southern portions. Chains of mountains have the same effect upon the height of the snow-line as plateaus have, the line being lower on the outskirts and higher in the central portions.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IN a memorandum prepared by the executive committee of the Dominion Land Surveyors' Association a number of rules are suggested as a remedy in the confusion of the geographical nomenclature and orthography in Canada. The principal feature of these resolutions is the suggestion of the compilation of a complete geographical dictionary of the Dominion by the Department of the Interior, and that all names given by explorers in new tracts of country be submitted to the surveyor-general, and, after approval by him, be entered in the geographical dictionary before being shown on any official maps or plans. Besides this, the rules of the Royal Geographical Society for spelling Indian names are recommended.

— The *Flamme*, the official organ of the Berlin Cremation Society, states that the total number of bodies cremated in the various countries to the 1st of August is as follows: Italy, 998; Gotha, 554; America, 287; Sweden, 39; England, 16; France, 7; Denmark, 1. The members of cremation societies number 3,012 in Sweden, 1,326 in Denmark, 1,326 in Holland, 612 in Germany, 580 in Italy, 438 in Hamburg, and 390 in Switzerland (Zurich). There is a curious disparity between the number of members in Italy and the proportion cremated. It is officially stated that outside of Asia there are but fifty cremation-furnaces in existence. Of these, twenty are in Italy, one in Germany, one in England, one in Switzerland, one in France, and the rest in the United States. From this statement it would appear that cremation has not made the rapid strides which its advocates hoped for.

— Mr. A. Howard Clark, of the Smithsonian Institution, has been appointed by the President to be one of the scientific experts to attend the international exposition in Paris in 1889. Mr. Howard was a member of the executive staff of the United States commissioner to the international fisheries exhibition in London, in 1883.

— Prof. C. V. Riley, of the Agricultural Department, the representative in charge of the exhibit of agricultural products from this country to the Paris exposition, has issued a circular in which he announces that a board has been formed in the Department of Agriculture, consisting of Professor Riley, William Saunders, O. D. LaDow, M. Trimble, and Dr. D. E. Salmon, to decide upon the agricultural exhibit.

— No. 95 of Van Nostrand's Science Series is entitled 'Plate-Girder Construction,' by Isami Hiroi. For railway as well as highway bridges, there is probably no other form of girders that are more extensively used and daily being constructed than plate-girders. The reason for this lies mainly in the simplicity of their construction, and their stiffness as compared with open-girders. That the construction of a plate-girder is simple, is, however, no reason to suppose that the stresses produced in it by external forces are also simple. On the contrary, to determine actual stresses in every part of a plate-girder is one of the most complicated problems that can