

'dead valleys' of the plain, once occupied by larger streams; the warping of valleys to produce lakes—these and many other topics are most acceptably treated.

REPORT OF THE LONDON GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS.

A VOLUME of almost a thousand pages, edited by Dr. Mill, now presents in full and in the original language the papers read at the Sixth International Geographical Congress in London last summer (Murray, 1896). The volume is so large, and so much mention was made of the proceedings of the Congress in current journals, that an abstract of the Report is now neither possible nor necessary. The account by Levasseur of the status of geographical instruction in France is of much value as illustrative of a highly formulated system. Penck presents his geomorphological nomenclature, in which he introduces the idea of stage of development, but hardly extends it as far as seems desirable to many, some of his fundamental forms being the products of erosion. On the whole, physiographical problems attracted little attention alongside of subjects of greater popular interest, such as polar exploration, or the habitability of Africa by the white race. Lallemand, director of general levellings in France, makes the following surprising statement, displacing a view supposed to be orthodox: The inequality of level between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, determined by former French and Spanish levels, and explained by the different densities in the two bodies, does not exist; the illusory results being due to systematic errors of early observations, and to the superficial character of the observations made on the salinity of sea water. Whether the density currents at the Strait of Gibraltar must also be given up is not told.

W. M. DAVIS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF NEW ENGLAND.

BULLETIN No. 19 of the Weather Bureau is a *Report on the Relative Humidity of Southern New England and other Localities*, by A. J. Henry. The investigation, the results of which are now published, was undertaken in order to ascertain how the humidity conditions of the South compare with those of New England and other places where cotton is manufactured, cotton manufacture, as is well known, being to a considerable extent dependent on the humidity of the atmosphere. It appears that hitherto in the development of the cotton manufacturing industry but little account has been taken of climatic conditions as affecting the quantity or quality of the output, and that the control of temperature and humidity by artificial means is the final solution of the problem when the establishment of mills in a relatively dry section is contemplated.

PROTECTION FROM FROST.

THE Weather Bureau has issued a short pamphlet entitled *Injury from Frost and Methods of Protection* (Weather Bureau No. 86,) by Hammon. The formation of frosts; the best locations for orchards or gardens to avoid injury by frost; the methods of protection and times when protection is needed, are considered.

TORNADOES IN TEXAS, MAY 12 AND 15.

DURING the spring a number of destructive tornadoes were recorded in our Southern and Western States. The local tornadoes which occurred in northern Texas on May 12 and 15 are described by Cline in Special Bulletin No. 8 of the Texas Climate and Crop Service. On May 12 two distinct tornadoes occurred, and on May 15 four were noted. The usual phenomena accompanied the disturbances.

R. DE C. WARD.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.