of perspective in a picture. But the pretended views of Fig. 91 are not views at all but maps differently colored. The Nova Scotia St. Lawrence view for instance shows no foreshortening with distances, but the same defect is present in the first sketch. It is an attempt to teach by trickery; for being false maps they cannot convey the idea of what a map really is.

Now that the objections have been stated let me hasten to express a hope that the small size geography has come to stay.

The maps of North America, Fig. 123, and the New England States, Fig. 125, seem to me very beautiful maps, but will Brockton and Haverhill agree that Plymouth is more important in New England geography than they? The make-up of the book is attractive, but it should be much revised before being offered to the schools.

The good features of the volume are developed in the admirable *Second Book*, 'North America.' After occupying a quarter of their space with a hastily written account of general physical geography, the authors present a splendid picture of the varied life and industries of different parts of this country, profusely illustrated. This portion of the book is admirable. Where older or briefer books have contented themselves with stating occupations and products, Tarr and McMurray describe industries so vividly and realistically that the interest is absorbing. Professor Tarr's books make 'easy reading,' and this one is no exception. It is to be hoped the use of the volume will be widespread. The teacher's part will be easy. History and industry are both referred to a geographic basis.

Each volume is closed by statistical tables and a pronouncing vocabulary. The latter would be more valuable did it not attempt a closeness of sound reproduction that demands special knowledge of languages and sounds for proper handling. Some inconsistencies and mispronunciations result. Accent and sounds of Spanish words need special revision. *Tuscon* for Tucson is the only misprint noted in the two volumes though a number of errors in the pronunciation are very likely chargeable to the printer. The maps are admirable apart from the hemispheres and Mercator repeated from the First Book.

MARK S. W. JEFFERSON.

Wireless Telegraphy and Hertzian Waves. By S. R. BOTTONE. Whittaker & Co., London. Cloth. Pp. 116. 35 illustrations.

This little book contains a brief account of the phenomena of Hertzian waves and of the development of the system of transmitting signals known as wireless telegraphy. The first chapter is intended for readers who are not familiar with even the more elementary ideas concerning electrical phenomena. The second chapter gives a brief account of the historical development of wireless telegraphy, and the next chapter on Hertzian waves describes in a very simple manner the methods of generating these waves and some of the methods of detecting them, especially those employing the coherer. The chapter on constructional details, which comprises nearly half the book, contains directions for making in an inexpensive way the apparatus required for experiments in the field of wireless telegraphy.

The comparison which the author makes between the action of a coherer and the action of iron filings in a helix through which an electrical current is passing is rather a misleading one, and the impression is given that it is necessary to have the coherer circuit carefully tuned to the transmitting circuit in order to have the coherer respond. Otherwise for a simple presentation of so difficult a subject the book contains very few misleading statements.

F. L. T.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

IN the September number of *The American Journal of Physiology* J. Van Denburgh and O. B. Wright present a carefully prepared account of their experiments 'On the physiological action of the poisonous secretion of the Gila Monster (*Heloderma suspectum*).' They find that the poison is essentially like the various snake venoms in its effects. The rate of respiration, the activity of the heart, the irritability of the sensory apparatus, the rapidity of coagulation of the blood, all suffer first an increase, and later a retardation with a gradual total loss of function. This primary quickening and secondary paralysis is not seen in the vasomotor center; instead, the poison causes immediately a great fall in blood pressure due to