

that is found acceptable in an important volume of a new series of geographical handbooks. Deecke's work on Italy* treats in its first chapter the limits and area of the country; in the second, the surrounding seas; in the third, the history of exploration; relief in the fourth, geological structure in the fifth, and climate and hydrography in the sixth and seventh. Then after 250 pages devoted to population, history, products and commerce, government and religion, the remaining 125 are given to the description of provinces ('Chorography'). In comment on this order, it may be said that it is not satisfactory from a physiographic standpoint to give a leading place to relief and a following place to geological structure; in such an order, relief must be treated empirically and to that extent imperfectly. Under hydrography many interesting details are given concerning certain rivers which have changed their courses in historical time—the Adige, the lower Po, and the Chiana between Tiber and Arno—but the development of rivers is hardly considered. The provincial descriptions include much material of value, yet they omit many facts that would shed useful light on local topography. Taken all together, the book is certainly good, but it does not contribute much to the development of the new scheme of geographical treatment that it is to be hoped may characterize similar works in the new century.

NORWAY.

A HANDSOME volume entitled 'Norway, official publication for the Paris exhibition, 1900' (Kristiana, 1900, 626 + xxxiv p., many plates, figures and maps) contains valuable chapters on topography, by Hansen; geology, by Reusch; and climate, by Steen, occupying 50 pages; the rest of the volume being given to history, social conditions, commerce, etc. Hansen gives a just emphasis to normal and glacial erosion in his account of surface features. The highland is described as an immense mountain plateau, whose 'even summits clearly indicate that it was originally a plain of denudation that has afterwards been forced up into an arch.' The

* 'Bibliothek der Länderkunde' herausgegeben von Dr. A. Kirchhoff und Dr. R. Fitzner. Berlin, Schall. 'Italien' von Professor Dr. W. Deecke, 1898.

summits that tower above it, being of harder rocks, may be supposed to have withstood the destructive forces which leveled the remainder. 'Actual connected mountain chains rising above lowlands at both sides do not exist.' Canyon like valleys, cut in the uplifted highland, were modified by strong glacial erosion, producing fiords. The mountains that rise above the highland frequently have sharp alpine forms with corries (botner) which are described as having been developed in névé fields above level of the glacial sheet. The glaciated area exposes bare rock over so much of its surface as stands above the old shore line that marks post-glacial submergence; but below this line there are abundant sands and clays, affording arable land. The population is largely found below this level.

The relation of Norway to Sweden is interestingly presented. Although the two countries border each other along a boundary line that measures a thousand miles in length, by far the greatest part of this line lies on the uninhabited mountainous highland. The two countries are therefore separated rather than joined. Only three railroads and about a dozen highways cross the boundary. In 1898, only five per cent. of Norway's goods-exchange crossed the land frontier by railway and only one third of one per cent. by other means, while ninety-five per cent. went by sea.

WM. DAVIS.

UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES.

THIS Board, to which is referred questions of disputed geographic nomenclature arising in the Executive Departments of the Government, held its monthly meeting January 9th. Philippine Island names were considered at some length. The Coast and Geodetic Survey is about to issue an atlas of the Philippine Islands. This atlas will contain about thirty maps made by Jesuit missionaries in the islands. It is preceded by an introduction, which, among other things, has three lists, comprising in all about 6,000 geographic names. These names are now in the final proof stage. The list was prepared and the proof corrected by Rev. Father Algue, S.J., of Manila, but who has been

spending the winter in Washington. The Coast and Geodetic Survey asked the Board to adopt this list of names. The United States Hydrographic Office had previously submitted a manuscript list of about 4,000 coastwise names which list had been compiled in that office and asked for its adoption by the Board. To that request the Board had responded by recommending that it be submitted to Father Algue for comment, correction and criticism. This list with Father Algue's criticisms, together with the Coast and Geodetic Survey list was presented and discussed and, as the outcome, both lists were referred to the Hydrographic Office for comparison with a view to discovering cases of discrepancy.

The Board proceeded with its usual routine cases, deciding 21 of them. Most of these are minor features in different parts of the country, and thus of only local interest. For example, whether it is Bobs or Bobbs, Douglas or Douglass, Mullin or Mullen, Reem or Reams, etc. Such cases are for the most part easily disposed of by getting, by correspondence, local information.

Two or three cases were of wider interest. For a county in Idaho the Board adopts the form *Nez Perce* (not *Nez Perces*) conformably to the uniform practise in that county and in Idaho. For a river in southwestern Iowa the form *Nishnabotna* was adopted in place of several other forms which have been more or less used. For three glaciers in Glacier Bay, Alaska, were adopted the names *Carroll* (not *Woods*), *Grand Pacific* (not *Johns Hopkins*), and *Rendu* (not *Charpentier*). All these names, including the rejected forms, are still in use, but there has been confusion in their application. The Board follows the original usage as printed on Coast and Geodetic Survey map No. 3,095 (edition of July, 1899).

Finally, one more case in Alaska may be mentioned. The easternmost point of *Kadiak* is supposed to be the one seen by *Bering* in 1741 and by him called *St. Hermogenes*; on some charts written *Hermogenes*. *Cook* in 1778 called it *Greville*. Some of the Russian charts call it *Yelovoi* (spruce) and others *Tolstoi* (broad). Its supposed native name is *Chiniak*, which on one chart has appeared as

Tuniak. The present local usage is reported to be *Chiniak* and this was adopted by the Board.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Geological Society of London has made the following awards for 1900: *Wollaston medal*, *Dr. C. Barrois*, Secretary of the International Geological Congress. *Wollaston fund*, *Dr. A. W. Rowe*, for papers on zonal geology and paleontology of the chalk of England; *Bigsby medal*, *G. W. Lamplugh*, of the British Geological Survey. *Murchison medal* to *A. J. Jukes-Browne*, of the same. *Murchison fund*, to *T. S. Hall*, of Melbourne, for work on the Tertiary Geology of Victoria. *Lyell medal* to *Dr. R. H. Traquair*, pal-ichthyologist of Edinburgh. *Lyell fund* to be divided between *Dr. J. W. Evans*, for work on Indian geology, and *A. McHenry*, of the Geological Survey of Ireland.

WILLIAM H. CROCKER, of San Francisco, has offered to defray the expenses of a solar eclipse expedition to be sent by the University of California from the Lick observatory to Sumatra to observe the total eclipse of the sun on May 17th. An astronomer and assistants will sail from San Francisco on February 19th to be absent until July. They will establish an observatory camp somewhere within twenty miles of Padang, on the west coast of Sumatra.

AT the recent International Congress of Hygiene and Demography a committee was appointed on the hygiene of streets, of which *Dr. R. Hering* of New York is the American member.

AMONG the honors conferred by Queen Victoria for the New Year are the *K.C.B.* on *Sir William Turner*, professor of anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, and baronetcies on *Dr. William Church*, president of the Royal College of Physicians, and *Dr. Thomas Barlow*, a London physician.

PROFESSOR E. VON DRYGALSKI, of the University of Berlin, has been elected an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

THE Spencer Lens Company, Buffalo, N. Y., of which *Dr. Roswell Park* is president, announces that it has placed its scientific