

Areas.'¹ This, in general, is the synthetic law putting seisms into direct dependence upon the principal recent movements of the earth's crust, since it is along those zones that they have attained their greatest amplitudes, positive or negative. As a consequence of pure statistics and pure observation, without introducing any hypothesis, this law may be formulated as follows: "The geosynclinals, where the sediments deposited in the greatest mass have been energetically folded, dislocated and elevated in Tertiary time with the formation of the principal existing mountain chains (or geanticlinals), contain within themselves alone, with two or three doubtful exceptions, all the seismic regions, which consequently characterize them."

The geosynclinals more ancient than Mesozoic, which at various epochs have given place to plicated mountain chains, now eroded and hardly discernible in their present state of peneplains, present the peneseismic regions—the remains of ancient seismic regions which are now tending to stability. The continental areas (in the sense in which Haug uses the term), whose tabular architecture proves them to have always been the seat of collective movements of small amplitude and without large derangements of the subjacent strata, are very generally aseismic or barely peneseismic. In fact, one may say tersely, "The folded architecture of the geosynclinals is unstable, and the reverse is true of the continental areas, and the same has probably been true of all geological periods."

The body of the book is occupied with the discussion of the earthquakes of the different regions of the world, chiefly in their geological relations. It is a wonderful display of learning. To give any idea of it is entirely beyond the scope of this article. The only way is to buy the book and read it.

C. E. DUTTON.

Electricity in Every-day Life. By EDWIN J. HOUSTON, Ph.D. 3 vols., 5½ by 8 inches, containing respectively 584, 566 and 609 pages. New York, P. F. Collier & Son.

¹ *Bull. Soc. Geol. France*, III., Series XXVIII., 633.

This book has been prepared with the evident purpose of being sold to the lay public irrespective of its possession of scientific knowledge, of education, or of taste for books that improve the mind. It is, therefore, a good example of the modern art of book-making. It is attractively bound in cloth, much as would be a modern novel. It is illustrated by a few full-page plates in color, by a number of full-page half-tones in black and white and by a profusion of ordinary cuts. The subjects of the color plates are 'Edison in his laboratory,' 'Franklin and his kite,' 'aurora borealis,' 'a central station,' 'the broomstick train,' 'electricity on the stage,' 'Holz-machines in electro-therapeutics' and 'landing a sub-marine cable.' The black and white plates are of such subjects as electricity in the kitchen, the hat factory, the dairy, the tailor-shop, the mine and the composing-room. The other cuts will, many of them, be familiar to all those versed in the art, having many of them originated in S. P. Thompson's 'Elementary Lessons on Electricity and Magnetism,' in Ganot's 'Physics' or the catalogues of the makers of philosophical and scientific instruments. The first volume treats of the 'Generation of Electricity and Magnetism,' and the remaining two of the 'Electric Arts and Sciences.' The second volume treats of dynamos, electric lighting and electric power, and the third volume of electro-chemistry, telephony, telegraphy, annunciators and alarms, electric heating and electro-therapeutics. The style is popular, non-mathematical, clear, easy and attractive, considering the subject matter. Each chapter is introduced by a pertinent quotation from the classics or from the writings of men eminent in the profession. Marginal subject notes accompany the more important paragraphs and are of great service to the reader. Each volume has a very complete index. The early history of the various subjects treated is emphasized and because of the giving of dates, references and frequent extensive quotations should render the book of considerable service to those interested in patent litigation.

SAMUEL SHELDON.