

neglected the old; and whether a combination of what is sound and true in both may not rather be needed in order to attain the whole truth. It is doubtful whether supply does not react upon demand as much as demand on supply; whether the consideration of disutility, implied in the conception of cost of production, is not equally important with that of utility, and equally deserving of distinct investigation; whether, in fine, the efforts and exertions of producers to supply wants are not as potent a factor in advancing civilization, and as creative of new wants, as the pressure of wants and desires themselves. The Austrian writers allow so much—though perhaps they here exhibit some lack of distinct statement—to the influence of “cost of production,” that they might, it would seem, go a little further, and place it on an equality with the principle of marginal utility. They would then, perhaps, recognize what Prof. Marshall, in his broader, and, as it appears to us, more philosophic, exposition of value, calls the fundamental symmetry of the laws of the forces working on both sides, which is exhibited in the analogy between “marginal utility” and “marginal cost of production,” and a law of “diminishing returns” and one of “decreasing utility.” They would, in short, without sacrificing altogether the vast amount of trouble bestowed by Ricardo and his followers on one side of the problem, assign a proper, and not an exclusive, emphasis to the side which they had themselves done so much to elucidate. For these reasons we consider Mr. Smart’s modest conclusion—that “the last word on value has not been said by the Austrian school”—to be as sound and as pertinent, as his exposition of their views is clear, pointed, and suggestive.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Across Tibet. By Gabriel Bonvalot. Translated by C. B. Pitman. Two Vols. (London: Cassell and Co., 1891.)

AFTER the return of M. Bonvalot and Prince Henry of Orleans from the East, so much was said of their journey that we need not now repeat any of the details of M. Bonvalot’s narrative. It may suffice for us to commend the book very cordially to the attention of readers who like to wander in imagination with travellers in remote parts of the world. M. Bonvalot, as his translator says, has those qualities of courage, self-command, tenacity, knowledge of human character, and good humour, which go to make up the successful traveller; and he writes of his achievements so simply and naturally that there is nothing to interfere with the reader’s full enjoyment of his story. The travellers, as everyone interested in geographical exploration will remember, started from the frontiers of Siberia, and in the course of the journey which brought them to Tonquin passed right through Tibet. Their route lay to some extent over ground which no European had ever before traversed, and this is, of course, the portion of his subject on which M. Bonvalot writes most carefully and effectively. The work has been translated in a clear and pleasant style, and it is enriched with many interesting illustrations.

Light. By Sir H. Trueman Wood. “Whittaker’s Library of Popular Science.” (London: Whittaker and Co., 1891.)

WE have here a popular and interesting account of many of the facts relating to the nature and properties of light. The subject is treated in a way that will induce many readers to glance through its pages, even if they do not

more carefully peruse it; while many a more advanced student will read the chapters on double refraction and polarization, lenses, and interference and refraction. Of other points touched on, we may mention spectrum analysis, optical instruments, chemical effects of light, fluorescence and phosphorescence—all of which are delightfully treated by the author.

In the appendix will be found a list of the more elementary and popular works on the subject, which should prove useful to those who wish to extend their knowledge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

Opportunity for a Naturalist.

WILL you allow me to say that the letter which you kindly inserted under this head in your issue of December 24, 1891 (p. 174), has brought me many replies? After considering them, I have made arrangements with Mr. O. V. Aplin (member of the British Ornithologists’ Union, and author of “The Birds of Oxfordshire”) to proceed to Uruguay in August next. Mr. Aplin will reside for six months on an *estancia* in the province of Minas, and devote himself primarily to birds, but will also collect insects and plants.

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Dwarfs and Dwarf Worship.

IN the slow course of post in this Protectorate I have just received copies of the *Times* of September 3 containing Mr. R. G. Halliburton’s paper on “Dwarf Races and Dwarf Worship,” and of September 14 and 22, containing subsequent correspondence on the same subject. Having crossed the Atlas Mountains at several different points, and approached the district which is indicated by Mr. Halliburton as the original home and hidden sanctuary of his diminutive and venerated people, I have read his paper with much interest and may perhaps be permitted to criticize his conclusions. My chief during my expedition to Morocco, that distinguished traveller Mr. Joseph Thomson, is, I believe, at present in Katanga, and therefore more inaccessible than I am; but when he is able to speak on the subject, his judgment on the case which Mr. Halliburton has very elaborately set up will not, I am confident, be different from mine.

Mr. Halliburton begins with a statement that is at once startling and decisive. The information he has collected puts it, he says, beyond question that there exists in the Atlas Mountains, only a few hundred miles from the Mediterranean, a race of dwarfs only 4 feet high, who are regarded with superstitious reverence or are actually worshipped, and whose existence has been kept a profound secret for 3000 years. Such an emphatic assertion ought to rest on clear and irrefragable evidence; and I read Mr. Halliburton’s paper in constant expectation of the proofs of his remarkable discovery, but reached the end of it without coming on a shred of testimony in support of his contention, of the slightest value to anyone acquainted with Morocco and the Moors. The paper is highly discursive, and abounds in what seem to me far-fetched and irrelevant speculations, on the connection between ancient Moorish poems and Greek mythology, on the derivation of the Phœnician deities, and on the meaning of Moorish habits and customs; but the only evidence, confirmatory of its thesis, adduced in it and in Mr. Halliburton’s subsequent letters, amounts to this: that six Europeans have seen dwarfs in Morocco; that an indefinite number of natives have romanced about dwarfs in their usual way; that there are in Morocco artificial caves—presumably dwellings—of such small size as to suggest that they must have had very short inhabitants; and that there have come down to us from antiquity traditions as to Troglodytes who dwelt in the Atlas Mountains.

Mr. Halliburton’s European witnesses are unimpeachable; and had my friend Mr. Hunot, whose knowledge of the country is extensive and accurate, distinctly said that there is a race of dwarfs in Morocco, I should not have ventured to con-