

Woburn and Thorney as material for a discussion of the land question. To review it adequately here is impossible, since it would lead one straightway into political discussion. The returns from the Beds, Bucks and Thorney estates, as set forth in the appendix, show the following financial results. "On Thorney the expenditure, from 1816 to 1895, amounted to 1,598,353*l.*, and on Woburn, from 1816 to 1895, it was 2,632,186*l.* After spending nearly four and a quarter millions sterling since 1816 on some 51,643 acres of land, a large proportion of which is some of the best wheat land in England, and after excluding all expenditure on Woburn Abbey, its park and farm, it will be seen that at the present time an annual loss of more than 7000*l.* a year is entailed on their owner." Elsewhere we read: "As to the pleasures to be derived from the ownership of an estate like Thorney, if the reader conjures up a beautiful mansion and park with endless game preserves he is mistaken. They do not exist. The only pleasure which I and my forebears can have derived from Thorney is the kindly feeling which has existed," &c. It would be a fatal mistake to suppose that the Duke has compiled these tables of statistics, and written this most interesting book to demonstrate the philanthropic principles of his ancestors, or to justify his own position as a landlord—"such pride is hardly wrong," as Mr. Gilbert sings—but rather to enable him to have a fling at John Stuart Mill, and to justify all landlords. Without entering on politics, one may point to the weak spot in his argument. He innocently fancies all or most landlords to be as the Russells. If they were, the land agitator would carry on his operations with a plough.

GEORGE MURRAY.

AN ISLAND OF THE EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO.

With the Dutch in the East. By Captain W. Cool (Dutch Engineers). Translated by E. J. Taylor. Pp. viii + 365. (London: Luzac and Co., 1897.)

THE past few years have been marked in a peculiar degree by disturbances in the various colonial dependencies of European nations. Not only in Central Africa—where the recent forward movement for the opening up of the continent has naturally led to collisions with native races—but in many of the older colonies in other parts of the world, it has been necessary for the paramount power to maintain its supremacy by force of arms. The recently translated work of Captain W. Cool gives a detailed narrative of one such war, undertaken by the Dutch in 1894 to deliver the subject population of the island of Lombok from the oppression of their Balinese rulers. The author tells the story of the expedition in a somewhat dramatic style, giving it almost the complexion of a national epic. In fact, accustomed as we are in this country to such small colonial wars, we might be inclined to think that he has attempted to raise it to a level unwarranted by the facts of the case. But the expedition had an importance beyond what might appear at first sight. It may even be said to have formed in some way a turning-point in Dutch colonial history. The difficulties encountered during the Achin war, and the unfortunate experiences of the Flores expedition had seriously threatened the Dutch prestige in the archipelago, and

failure or only partial success at Lombok might have been regarded as indicating that Holland was now unequal to the task of maintaining her hold on her extensive colonies in the East. In spite of some reverses, which necessitated the dispatch of considerable reinforcements, the general result of the war was fortunately most successful, and will, it may be hoped, have conferred a lasting benefit on the island in the form of good and settled government for the future.

English literature on the subject of the Eastern Archipelago is so scanty, and the works of Dutch writers—naturally by far the most numerous—are so little known in this country, that any addition to our knowledge of that part of the world is welcome. With regard to Lombok, we believe that almost the only information—obtained at first hand—to be found in English works, is that contributed by Dr. A. R. Wallace, who, in 1856, crossed from side to side of the island; and in his "Malay Archipelago" devotes two interesting chapters to the manners and customs of the people. Apart from the story of the military operations, Captain Cool gives, in his third and fourth chapters, a useful summary of all that is known of the island and its inhabitants, with a sketch (considerably shortened in the English translation) of the connection of the Dutch with it from the time of their first voyages to the Far East. Being confined to the neighbourhood of the west coast, the expedition did not, unfortunately, add much to our knowledge of Lombok, which, though small compared with other islands of the archipelago, is still little known apart from a narrow strip across the centre. Captain Cool's information is therefore necessarily compiled in great part from previously published works, those of Zollinger and Jacobs in particular being largely drawn upon. He gives a most unpleasant picture of the state of morals in the island, the Brahminical Balinese rulers being decidedly worse in this respect than the subject Mohammedan Sassaks. The oppression and tyranny of the former is likewise painted in strong colours, although Wallace thought the Sassaks in his time reconciled to their then new rulers. The island has undoubtedly everything to gain from being brought more closely under the influence of the Dutch authorities.

The author's style is one which hardly lends itself well to exact reproduction in English, and might perhaps with advantage have been somewhat modified by the translator. The short paragraphs, constant use of question and answer, and of the note of admiration, are apt to be worrying. The book contains a sketch-map of Lombok, and some good illustrations, both of scenery and people, and is provided with a full and well-arranged index.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Die elektrodynamischen Grundgesetze und das eigentliche Elementargesetz. Von Franz Kerntler. 8vo. Pp. 68. (Budapest: Buchdruckerei der Pester Lloyd-Gesellschaft, 1897.)

THOSE who take up the present book with the expectation of finding in it a full and comprehensive sketch of the principles of electro-magnetism will be disappointed. Dr. Kerntler's work might, perhaps, be best described as an essay on "Ampère's Law and Allied Theories,"