

where critical, however, all these contributors are more or less sympathetic.

All the articles except one (by Prof. Weren-skiöld on "The Surface of Central Norway") are more or less connected with the United States. A good many come under the head of economic or economic-political geography. Such, for example, are Prof. Brückner's on "The Settlement of the United States as Controlled by Climate and Climatic Oscillations"; that by Prof. Demangeon on Duluth; that by Prof. Partsch on "Die Nord-pazifische Bahn"; those by Profs. Nussbaum and Oberhammer on American towns, the latter on American towns as compared with the towns of Europe; that by Herbette on "The Harbours of the Pacific North-west of the U.S."; and that by Vacher on "Les Environs de Phœnix et le Barrage Roosevelt." Several discuss the origin of land forms, as Prof. de Martonne's on "Le Parc National Yellowstone," and that of Machatschek on "Ein Profil durch die Sierra Nevada mit einem Vergleich mit der Schollenstruktur in Zentral-asien." There are some interesting "Observations sur deux Petits Geysers du Yellowstone," by Prof. Chaix, of Geneva; and Mr. E. de Margerie contributes an article written in excellent and even fascinating English on "The Debt of Geographical Science to American Explorers." Prof. Davis furnishes a brief note on the origin of the excursion, and its history is written by Prof. A. P. Brigham, of Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y. In addition to a map showing the route, there are numerous photographic, diagrammatic, and other illustrations, and photographs of most of the European members of the party as well as of Profs. Davis and Brigham. The guests would have liked to see also the photographs at least of all those American members who went the whole round.

G. G. C.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Mentally Deficient Children: their Treatment and Training. By Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth and Dr. W. A. Potts. Pp. xix+284. Fourth edition. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1916.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

THE mentally deficient are of considerable importance to the community; their behaviour may be offensive, they frequently exhibit criminal propensities, and they are a source of expense in that they need special care and are deficient as producers and wage-earners. The disability is of all grades, and frequently commences in childhood or may be congenital. The principal causes in children are maldevelopment of certain parts of the brain or retarded development of the brain and its functions from some intercurrent disease. The latter may be due to injury at or after birth, fevers, convulsions, epilepsy, and syphilis. There are also certain conditions of glandular inadequacy, as in the cretin whose thyroid gland is atrophied. Probably of children of school age

some 1 per cent. or thereabouts are mentally feeble.

In this book the authors first detail the pathology of mental deficiency in childhood, its etiology, diagnosis, and prognosis. They then describe the methods to be adopted for the medical examination of mentally defective children, and devote considerable space to the medical treatment and educational, industrial, and moral training and recreation of mentally deficient children.

An important chapter deals with the results of treatment and training. Of the patients treated at the Royal Albert Institution about 50 per cent. do not improve or get worse, while of the remainder 10 per cent. become self-supporting, and the rest become of more or less value—surely a very encouraging record.

The book gives an excellent summary of the subject, and should be of considerable service to the medical practitioner and to the school officer and teacher, by whom the lesser cases of mental deficiency will first be recognised, and early recognition and treatment are very essential if any good result is to be obtained. The book is illustrated with a number of useful plates.

The Indo-Aryan Races. A Study of the Origin of Indo-Aryan People and Institutions. By Ramaprasad Chanda. Part i. Pp. xiii+274. (Rajshahi: The Varendra Research Society, 1916.) Price Rs.6 8a.

THIS book, we are told in the preface, was intended to provide "a monograph on the origin of the Bengali people," a useful project which has been supported by the newly founded Varendra Research Society. But his "notes," as the author modestly terms them, have developed into a series of essays on the religion, history, and ethnology of Ancient India. All that is provided as part of the original project is a short series of head measurements, published without commentary, which is intended to settle the question whether certain groups of Bengali Brahmans are, or are not, descendants of a few Brahmans imported from Kanauj. So far as we can judge from these scanty statistics the legend is without foundation; but the subject demands much more careful treatment before it can be finally settled.

The essays, modestly written and creditable to the scholarship of the author, traverse well-trodden ground. The great "Vedic Index" of Profs. Macdonell and Keith has already collected practically all the information that the Vedic literature supplies on Early India. But the byways of Sanskrit writings can still furnish some facts, and much still remains to be done, for the interpretation of these materials.

The author might with advantage return in his next venture to the original problem of the origin of the Bengalis. He would probably discard Risley's theory of Mongoloid infusion in favour of some early entry of an Alpine strain. If he can establish this doctrine he would do useful service to Indian ethnology.