

Outlines of Agriculture in Japan. iv and 132 pp., map and illustrations.

Published by the Agricultural Bureau, Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Tokyo, 1910. 9 x 6.

The work was compiled to acquaint foreigners with the general outlines of the agriculture of Japan. The two features that characterize Japanese farming are (1) that the cultivation of rice has the leading position, the value of the rice crop being equal to that of all the other agricultural industries; and (2) that farms are very small and farming is intensive. Seventy per cent. of the farmers till only 2.45 acres or less. All the farmers who cultivate more than 7.35 acres of land each do not exceed three per cent. of the total number of agriculturists. The result of the enormous population and of the small area of the fields is that methods of cultivation are necessarily intensive and crops are generally

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

raised twice a year from the same farm. Many younger nations are now giving much attention to the maintenance of the fertility of the soil. They may well study the methods of Japan, whose soil has for ages been forced to produce enormous quantities of food and is still kept in the highest state of fertility. The book tells how every particle of fertilizer produced at home is utilized in the field, even to weeds, the ashes of plants, and the sweepings of the streets, in addition to the large quantity of commercial fertilizers imported from abroad. The work discusses all phases of Japanese agriculture and is a very useful contribution to our knowledge of the greatest activity of the Japanese people.

Mining in Japan. Past and Present. Published by The Bureau of Mines, The Department of Agriculture and Commerce of Japan. 1909. v and 322 pp., and maps. 10 x 6½.

This work was especially prepared to give information regarding the past history and the present condition of mining in Japan. Its maps show the distribution of the metals and the coal and oil fields of the empire, and the text, treating each mining industry separately, describes its history and development with more detailed information as to the most important mines and oil fields.

EUROPE

Early Britain. Roman Britain. By Edward Conybeare. 275 pp., map and index. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London, 1911. 3s. 6d. 6½ x 4½.

A trustworthy and readable sketch of the historical growth and decay of Roman influence in Britain, illustrated by the archæology of the period. Seventy-seven ancient authors are referred to, and all of the best modern authorities were consulted. The book gives 123 pages to pre-Roman Britain, 36 to the Roman conquest, 64 to the Roman occupation and 51 to the end of Roman Britain. A chronological table and list of authorities are included.

British Mountain Climbs. By George D. Abraham. xvi and 448 pp., illustrations and index. Mills & Boon, Ltd., London, 1909. 7 x 4½.

A handy book for the pocket and a conveniently small and concise guide to the British rock-climbs, the result for the most part of the author's personal experience. British mountain climbers find much recreation and enjoyment among the higher elevations of Wales and Scotland, and not a few of the climbs described in this book require roping if the climbers take sensible precautions against accident. The author groups these British climbs around the most convenient centers and mentions the most helpful maps at the beginning of his leading chapters.

Swiss Mountain Climbs. By George D. Abraham. xv and 432 pp., illustrations and index. Mills & Boon, Ltd., London W., 1911. 7s. 6d. 7 x 4½.

A work that all Alpinists will appreciate. It is full of suggestions with regard to the most popular and important climbs among the Alps. Sketch maps show the best routes to many summits. The book includes a considerable number of climbs of no great difficulty and seems to encourage even those who are in no sense mountaineers to attempt some of them. The author says:

"Few Englishmen, aye, and even women if they be sound of wind and limb, but can tackle an average Alpine ascent. Good strong trustworthy guides are

available, and these stalwarts are capable of looking after matters of equipment and taking their patrons anywhere in reason. They are becoming past-masters in tactful discrimination, they 'temper the wind to the shorn lamb'".

In the Abruzzi. By Anne Macdonell: With Twelve Illustrations after Water-Colour Drawings by Amy Atkinson. ix and 309 pp., map and index. F. A. Stokes Company, New York, 1909. \$2. 8½ x 5½.

The land of the Abruzzi is due east of Rome, beyond the nearer heights that bound the Campagna. This region is supplied with railroads and other highways, but travelers, and even most Italians know little of it. Only recently have the Abruzzi come to be visited by tourists, though the region is wonderfully picturesque and contains also the relics of great art, though they must be sought for because they are not gathered into collections, but are scattered among unfrequented valleys or quaint little towns or remote mountain sides.

This book will help to make the Abruzzi better known and to attract visitors to this highland region. The author has written very carefully and shows many aspects that make the Abruzzi worthy of the attention and admiration of a wider public. She fully describes both the country and the people. The colored views are an interesting feature.

The Cathedrals of Northern France. By T. Francis Bumpus. x and 396 pp., map and illustrations, appendix and index. James Pott & Company, New York, 1910. 7½ x 5.

The cathedrals here described are north of the Loire as far as the confluence of the Allier River, and thence north of a straight line, joining the Allier mouth with the Ardennes. The usefulness of the book as a touring companion is increased by grouping the great churches in their respective archiepiscopal provinces. Twenty-seven pages are given to a sketch of the development of the French cathedrals, which is followed by descriptions of twenty-five of them. The book is the outcome of years of study and observation, and will be very useful to all travelers who wish to know more of the ecclesiastical "glories of France."