

PREFACE.

IN the first part of this little book an attempt has been made to give students a grasp of those important physical facts in accordance with which countries have been divided into 'natural regions,' and in the second part to show the influence of the physical features of such areas on the life of mankind. Special attention has, therefore, been paid to the relief of the land and to climate, and several maps have been introduced to illustrate these phenomena.

The orographical maps have been constructed after the series of Hand-Maps published by the Diagram Company, and I must express my gratitude to that Company for their kind permission for their reproduction. Important railways have been indicated on these maps in order to show the extent to which they have been controlled by the relief of the land.

In the consideration of climate, stress has been laid on the importance of studying the maximum and minimum temperatures of places, as well as the average temperature, and the seasonal distribution of rain, as well as the amount of the annual fall, in order to really understand the effect of climate on vegetation. To facilitate this study, some climatic statistics have been inserted (see pp. 21 and 23) for purposes of reference and comparison, as well as various maps.

The economic aspect of the subject has been kept well in mind, and it is hoped that the maps illustrating the distribution of productions will prove a useful feature in the book; and that the diagrams on pp. 113, 115, and 117, and the statistical tables at the end of the book, which have been inserted for purposes of reference and not for memorizing, will help students to acquire some sense of proportion in dealing with commercial facts. The statistics have been compiled from the 'Statesman's Year-Book,' which students will do well to consult for further information.

The book will be found to contain sufficient information, with regard to the area described, for candidates for geographical examinations of the standard of London Matriculation, but might also well be used by pupils in the middle form of schools under the careful guidance of their teachers.

In conclusion, I have to thank Mr. G. G. Chisholm, M.A., B.Sc. (Edin.), University Extension Lecturer, for kindly revising the book in manuscript, and making several valuable suggestions.

J. B. R.

*First Edition published June, 1905.
Second Edition November, 1907; Third Edition July, 1909.
Fourth Edition November, 1910.*

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