New Books.


These two volumes represent in the new form the former one volume in this series of handbooks published by Mr. Stanford.

The volumes of this new edition are a little smaller in size than the previous edition. They are printed in good sized type, are illustrated with about 120 illustrations, and 30 general and sectional maps. The maps have been brought up to date and are useful. The first volume is due to Dr. Wallace, and the second to Dr. Guillemard.

In this new form these two volumes will be of great value to those who take an interest in these countries, and both the writers are well known as most competent men in reference to the knowledge of these lands.

After an introductory chapter, the first volume gives an account of the Physical Geography, Natural History, Geology, Ethnology of Australia, with some interesting remarks on the origin of the inhabitants.

Then follows a chapter of very great interest, and of somewhat harrowing details, relating the history of colonisation and exploration of Australia. This chapter is one which should not be passed over. The terrible privations, ending in some cases with death, but in others after most heroic efforts in success, form a chapter of human history which is good to read.

Then follows the story of the material progress of Australia, with chapters giving the needful detail to fill up the picture of each colony.

The second volume begins with an introduction on the physical characteristics of the Islands, a chapter on their general features, with some remarks on the Malay race, and then follow chapters on the several groups of islands, dealing with each cluster in a similar way, thus enabling the work of the comparative geographer to be easily done, and making the books valuable as text-books to teachers and others.

There are, we are sorry to find, in the chapters on discovery, omissions of some names which ought to have been mentioned, such as Dr. Macfarlane, whose exploration of the Fly River is referred to in the Journal, vol. I., p. 311. Some of these have been pointed out in our Journal, in reference to the discovery and exploration of the Fly river. It is quite time Geographers generously recognised the enormous debt they are under in all parts of the world to missionaries, for their discoveries and the work they have accomplished in opening out new lands.

There are several other points in the volumes we should have been pleased to have seen altered, but, as they stand, they are books of great value, and give to us the result of the ripened knowledge and scholarship of two great Geographers.

A series of works like this would, if published abroad, meet an extensive sale, and we trust Mr. Stanford may be similarly rewarded.