

intervening depths of from twenty-one to thirty-eight fathoms; and the latter are fourteen miles west from the Land's End, with depths of thirty-two to forty fathoms between them and the Longships. St. Michael's Mount appears better to accord with the description of Diodorus than any other island on the Cornish coast, on account of, firstly, its vicinity to tin-producing districts; secondly, the facility with which carts laden with the ore could have reached it, either on the supposition of an elevation of a few feet, or allowing the extension of the sand-bank from the mainland or the existence of a sand spit concealing the isthmus.

APPENDIX.

NOTE A.—A rock near the Land's End bears the name of "the Armed Knight." Though this appellation may have been bestowed on it through a fancied resemblance in outline, the existence of the tradition respecting Trevelyan's adventure appears to furnish a more likely reason for the name.

NOTE B.—In Speed's Map of Cornwall, 1610, no dependence can be placed upon the latitudes, as may be seen by placing a tracing of a reduced Ordnance Map of the same scale (about 1 inch to 4 miles) over it, when the Land's End district will be found to occupy entirely different positions scarcely overlapping in any place, and the shape of the Lizard district to be quite dissimilar.

Another map without date, but probably as old as Speed's, was shown to me by Mr. Parfitt, of the Devon and Exeter Literary Institute; the same discrepancies were visible in it.

Now when we find discrepancies of latitude equal to 10', and the shapes of promontories entirely misrepresented in maps of their own country produced by geographers 300 years ago, how can we expect to find even as great accuracy in the geographical descriptions of Roman or Greek historians, more especially when relating to coasts with which they must at best have been very slightly acquainted?

NOTICES OF MEMOIRS.

ON THE EXTINCT WINGLESS BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND. By RICHARD OWEN, C.B., F.R.S., ETC. (London: John Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster Row.)

BARON CUVIER, in the "Avertissement" to the First Edition of the 'Recherches sur les Ossemens Fossiles des Quadrupèdes,'¹ assigns as a reason for reprinting, with additional matter, his "morceaux détachés dans les 'Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle,'" the facility which would thereby be afforded to students of fossil remains in their comparisons with the text and plates of such Work.

A like motive has led the Author to collect his detached Memoirs on the Fossil Bones of the Birds of New Zealand, which have appeared in successive Parts of the 'Transactions of the Zoological Society of London' since the year 1838, and to similarly combine them with additional matter and general remarks in the two volumes now issued.

His purpose, long entertained, was strengthened by the appearance and favourable reception of an excellent and comprehensive Work on the existing Birds of New Zealand,² to which the present Volumes may be deemed complementary.

¹ 4to. 3 vols., 1812.

² 'A History of the Birds of New Zealand,' by Walter Lowry Buller, Sc.D., F.L.S., etc. 4to. (London, John Van Voorst, 1872.)

They comprise an Introductory Notice of the circumstances which led to the discovery and restoration of the extinct Avifauna of New Zealand. The descriptions are accompanied by Illustrations of the natural size of the fossils, and reduced views of the restored skeletons on which the several genera and species have been founded. The whole is preceded by an illustrated Anatomy of the existing wingless bird (*Apteryx australis*) which is the nearest ally of the extinct *Dinornis*; and is followed by notices of the food, footprints, nests, and eggs of the Moas, the Maori traditions relating to those gigantic birds, the causes and probable period of their extirpation, and a speculation on the conditions influencing the atrophy of the wings in flightless birds.

The latter topic has led the Author to append Supplementary Memoirs on the Dodo, Solitaire, Great Auk, and some evidences of gigantic extinct Birds of Australia and Great Britain.

His advanced age has led him to issue the present Work entire, in preference to a publication in Parts. It consists of a Quarto Volume of Text (512 pp.), and a similar Volume of 130 Plates, several of which, from the size of their subjects, are in folio. With the Text are intercalated Woodcuts.¹ Dr. Hector's Geological Map of New Zealand, giving the localities of the discovered fossils, is annexed.

R E V I E W S.

I.—THE PHYSICAL SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSE. AN OUTLINE OF PHYSIOGRAPHY. By SYDNEY B. J. SKERTCHLY, F.G.S. 8vo., pp. 385. (London, Daldy, Isbister & Co., 1878.)

SINCE the Science and Art Department determined to hold an Examination in Physiography we have been presented with various text-books on the subject. Professor Huxley, the Rev. Alexander Mackay, Professor Ansted, and more recently Mr. Skertchly, have come into the field; while in late numbers of "Good Words" Mr. Norman Lockyer has contributed a series of physiological sketches on "The Earth's Place in Nature."

This subject—which, at South Kensington, seems to have supplanted Physical Geography, ought, however, in no sense to interfere with it. Physical Geography deals with the configuration of the earth's surface, and with the distribution of its various forms of life; it is, in fact, the geology of the present day, and must always retain more or less of an individuality so far as any study can do so.

Physiography, on the other hand, endeavours to knit together the sum and substance of all that is known of the physical history of the universe—it is, in fact, a Cosmogony—though its chief aim is to develop the intimate connexion between all sciences, and to illustrate the Unity of Creation.

It is only within the past few years that Physiography has assumed its present comprehensiveness. The term has not unfrequently been in use to designate the physical aspect or contour of any tract on the earth's surface. Nor has the connexion of various sciences been

¹ The price of the Work is £6 6s.