

may be benefited by the reminder that other observers, including some of Mr. Muir's companions on the trip in question, have been unaccountably blind to the remarkable phenomena upon which some of his far-reaching conclusions seem to rest.

Such records as this volume affords, in spite of minor defects, are most creditable to the bureau and its officers; and it is to be hoped that the series may be indefinitely continued.

NEW BOOKS.

. For full titles see 'Publications received at editor's office.'

'THE perfect way in diet' (Kingsford) is a translation of a thesis presented, in 1880, by the author, for her degree of doctor of medicine, and is a plea for a return to the natural and ancient food of our race, which is better understood when one knows that Miss Kingsford is a vegetarian. — 'The Russian revolt' (Noble) gives a history of the development of the country, showing the effects of contact with western civilization, and closes with an appeal for a constitutional government for Russia. — 'Wanderings of plants and animals' (Hehn and Stallybrass) is an attempt to trace the origin of well-known plants and animals by historic and philologic methods. The author holds that Europe owes much more to Asia than the mere botanist and mere zoölogist are willing to admit; that the flora of southern Europe has been revolutionized under the hand of man; and that the evergreen vegetation of Italy and Greece is not indigenous, but is mainly due to the sacred groves planted around the temples of oriental gods and goddesses. He has much to say of Indo-Europeans, or Aryans, at the time of their settling Europe, and holds that the builders of the lake villages in Switzerland were Aryans at a comparatively advanced period. In fact, the low condition of the Aryans on entering Europe, and their subsequent obligations to other Aryans in Asia, and, above all, to the Semitic races in Palestine, form, perhaps, the central idea of the book. — 'Chemical conversion tables' (Battle and Dancey) are intended to meet a long-felt want on the part of agricultural analytical chemists for some relief from the time-consuming calculations necessary to convert the result of each separate determination into the customary per cent. They embrace only what is required in the analysis of commercial fertilizers and their derivative constituents. — 'Notes on the chemistry of iron' (Troilius) gives a description of such chemical methods of analysis in iron and steel manufacture as have come under the author's personal observation. — 'History of Japan' (Thorpe) is a history of the country from the earliest times, giving an account of the primitive

religion, and of the different dynasties, and ends with an account of the recent progress of the country. — 'The principles of house-drainage' (Putnam) contains lectures delivered before the Suffolk district medical society, the Boston society of architects, and the Massachusetts institute of technology, on house-drainage, and the proper construction of wash-basins, closets, soil and drain pipes, with hints as to the size and general arrangements of piping. — 'First lessons in amateur photography' (Spaulding) gives the beginner, in a few pages, an account of the general method of taking a negative, and obtaining from it a silver print. The subject-matter is arranged in the form of seven short lectures, which were originally delivered before the senior class of a high school. That portion of the book relating to the camera and lens is treated very briefly, and the description of the process of development of the negative is not stated as fully as might be desired. The general criticism on the book is that there is not quite enough of it. — 'De l'effet artistique en photographie' (Robinson et H. Colard) begins where most books on photography leave off, treating photography wholly from the artistic side, and doing so in a very thorough and satisfactory manner. We can commend the book to all who wish to study the principles of art in photography, and to those who wish to obtain really artistic pictures, whether of landscapes, groups, or portraits.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

APROPOS of our comments on the facilities for navigation in Hudson Bay (*Science*, No. 142, p. 350), we learn that the company's annual vessel, with a cargo valued at over a million, was recently driven on the bar at the anchorage near Moose Factory, the port of the region, and became a total wreck.

The whaling fleet in Alaskan waters this summer numbered forty sailing-vessels and eight steamers, with a total tonnage of 14,262 tons. No further disasters had occurred up to the latest advices, and the vessels embayed by ice near Point Barrow had been safely extricated. One hundred and twenty-six whales had been taken.

The fishing fleet of the North Pacific has returned to San Francisco. Fourteen trips were made by twelve vessels, aggregating 2,550 tons. The fish taken in Alaskan waters numbered 922,000, and from the Okhotsk Sea 452,000. The value of the catch is about \$150,000. This industry has been successfully prosecuted since 1864.

The boundary between the territory of the Argentine Confederation and Brazil, forming the