

summer, is chiefly made up of the astonishing work of Schiaparelli, and those inspired by him. It has given us elaborate topographical maps distinguished by the unique features known as channels (*canaux*) and has satisfactorily proved that many of these sometimes appear doubled and otherwise strangely modified to the point of entirely disappearing. It has also sown the seeds of the theories which are now springing up in rich profusion and confusion.

To history the author devotes 490 pages and 268 illustrations.

The remaining 100 pages are devoted to the conclusions which the author regards as proved beyond controversy. The last two chapters, treating of the channels, rivers, continental areas, water circulation and conditions of life on the planet, will naturally excite the most interest and criticism.

W. B.

3. *Investigation of the Coral Reefs of the West Indies.*—A letter from Prof. ALEXANDER AGASSIZ of December 3, states that he will soon start on an exploring trip of three months among some of the islands of the West Indies—the use of a yacht for the purpose having been generously tendered him by the Hon. John M. Forbes of Milton, Mass. He will study the reefs of the Bahamas and vicinity and those also of the north shore of Cuba from Cape Mayzi to Havana, and probably visit also for the same purpose the Bermudas. Mr. Emerton and a son of Prof. Mayer of the Stevens Institute will accompany him as draughtsmen. Mr. Mayer has been studying at Cambridge for the last two years and is especially interested in the Jelly Fishes.

4. *Gelatine slides for lantern projection.*—Prof. W. J. WAGGENER states that he has been very successful in making diagrams and pictures for projection by the magic and the solar lantern by printing the same, with the ordinary printing press and engraved blocks, on sheets of transparent gelatine. By this means excellent lantern slides from diagrams and engravings of nearly if not quite all kinds can be made and multiplied as rapidly and almost as cheaply as paper prints. The extreme of cheapness in the production of the pictures can be reached by assembling many engraved blocks together and printing all at once on large sheets of gelatine or celluloid, which can be afterward cut into pieces of suitable size.

5. *Transactions of the Texas Academy of Science.* Vol. I, No. 1, 44 pp. 8vo, Nov., 1892, Austin, Texas.—This first number of the Transactions of the Texas Academy contains short papers by A. Macfarlane, E. T. Dumble, W. F. Cummins, W. H. von Sieernwitz, G. Everhart and G. W. Curtis.

6. *Die Klassiker der exakten Wissenschaften, herausgegeben von W. OSTWALD* (W. Engelmann, Leipzig).—Attention has been called repeatedly in these pages to the issues of this valuable series. Nearly forty numbers have now been published and the service thus done to the student of Physics and Chemistry can hardly be overestimated. All of the volumes are scientific classics which the worker often wishes to consult, and yet as given