

NOTICES OF MEMOIRS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE GEOLOGY AND ERUPTIVE PHENOMENA OF THE MORE IMPORTANT VOLCANOES OF SOUTHERN ITALY. Compiled by HENRY JAMES JOHNSTON-LAVIS, M.D., D.Ch., M.R.C.S., F.G.S., etc., late Professor of Vulcanology in the Royal University of Naples, assisted by Madame ANTONIA JOHNSTON-LAVIS. 2nd edition, completed, after the author's death, by Miss M. B. STANTON, and edited, with a preface and a short life of the author, by B. B. WOODWARD, F.L.S., F.G.S., of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). 4to; pp. xxiv + 374, with a frontispiece and a photograph of the author in 1905. London: The University of London Press, Ltd., St. Paul's House, Warwick Square, E.C. 4. 1918.

THE history and *raison d'être* of this important work are set forth by the editor, Mr. B. B. Woodward, in his preface, and thence we extract the following salient facts:—

The "Congrès Géologique International" having arranged to hold its second session at Bologna in 1881, the "Comité d'Organisation" in that town decided, in their *Séance* of March 17th, 1879, to undertake the compilation of a "Bibliographie géologique et paléontologique de l'Italie" as a contribution towards the success of the meeting. For many unavoidable reasons that list was an imperfect one. Still, a very considerable number of works and papers were recorded, the total number of entries amounting to 6,566.

Dr. Johnston-Lavis naturally availed himself of those sections that concerned his special pursuits and set to work to supply deficiencies and to add the titles of further publications as issued. In this he was cordially aided by Mme. Lavis, who, working under her husband's directions, industriously transcribed the fresh titles and incorporated them with the entries from the older bibliography.

By the time that the Geologists' Association paid its visit to Southern Italy in the months of September and October, 1889, the bibliography had grown to almost twice the size, and Lavis happily seized upon the occasion to publish it in 1891 as an appendix to the account of the excursion, which was reprinted from the Proceedings of the Association, the whole thus forming a valuable manual of information on the volcanoes of Southern Italy.

From that time onwards no opportunity was lost for working at this bibliography and endeavouring to render it as complete as such a work can ever be.

When the War broke out, depriving him at once of his practice, he had determined to employ his enforced leisure from professional duties till happier times should return in systematically revising and augmenting the whole bibliography and in ransacking every available source with this object in view.

His tragic death¹ cut this project short, and all the loving labour

¹ GEOL. MAG., 1914, p. 480.

of years of patient research seemed likely to be thrown away had not his family most felicitously conceived the idea of completing the work so far as might be possible and publishing it as a worthy offering to his memory.

Fortunately, this has been rendered practicable through the cordial co-operation of his secretary, who, during recent years, had been closely associated with Dr. Johnston-Lavis in the work and was thoroughly acquainted with his scheme and method. Miss Stanton accordingly continued the researches that had been begun in the Library of the Geological Society of London, where the index catalogue prepared by Mr. C. Davies Sherborn proved invaluable, the Reading Room of the British Museum, and the Libraries in the Natural History Museum, extending them to the Library of the Société Géologique de France, where she met with cordial assistance, especially from the President, M. Maurice Cossmann, and the former President, M. Emmanuel de Margerie, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, where, as unhappily customary in that establishment, all spirit of practical help was conspicuous by its absence.

In this way the present bibliography was completed, so far as at present practicable, as regards all the more important volcanoes. To have extended its scope and to have embraced all volcanic records for the region would have entailed many more years of labour, whilst the value of the bibliography would not have been materially increased thereby. Nor has it been possible in all cases to incorporate in their entirety the individual contents of previous bibliographies in the body of the present one. The existence of such sources of reference is, however, duly recorded, and the inquirer will, therefore, be furnished with the necessary clue towards the object of his research.

On account of the War, all access to Dr. Johnston-Lavis' own library was cut off, and hence many entries that might have been completed have perforce had to be included in a less perfect state than could have been wished. The whole bibliography must, therefore, under the circumstances of its production, be leniently judged and regarded as a stage only towards that ideal work one would like to see.

The Editor has to acknowledge much kindly assistance and advice given during the progress of the work by Sir Lazarus Fletcher, LL.D., F.R.S.

The subject-matter has been subdivided, as in the previous edition, according to the different volcanic groups, but some modifications in these have been introduced that approximately follow the author's known intentions in that respect.

Altogether there are in this present edition some 7,350 entries, and since these include references to the fauna, flora, and palæontology of the several districts, in addition to their mineralogy, petrology, vulcanology, etc., the work is obviously one of general interest and utility to all workers in natural science, and should therefore find a place on the shelves of every library of any importance.