

LIST OF EXHIBITION OFFICIAL CATALOGUES, &c.—continued.

preconception. The philosophy of this is, not that the individual articles are superior to others which we have seen, examined, and admired, but that in the whole there is a variety and vastness to which we are unused, and from which, as from a series of inductions, each man makes his own especial deductive reasonings.

"The Great Exhibition is, in a remarkable manner, a grand exemplification of the present state of human industry, and of the efforts of mind. We perceive in it the most complete illustration of the application of science to all the purposes of use and ornament; we discover how far man has advanced in his knowledge of the physical agencies which determine the constitution of matter, and of the productions of Nature by which he is surrounded.

"The general desire expressed for some concise description of the Exhibition—some guide, which should direct to the more interesting groups within the Building, and explain their peculiarities whether natural or artificial—led to the design of the present Handbook, which is intended to afford that interpretation which appeared to be required.

"It is necessary, by a brief explanation, to correct a mistake which has been entertained, more particularly by exhibitors, as to the character of the work. It was never contemplated that, within the limits of two small volumes, an account of individual articles should be given. The objects exhibited have, as far as it was possible, been taken in groups, and the striking points distinguishing each alone selected for description.

"Doubtless some articles have escaped attention, which, from their merits and peculiarities, claimed notice. Every care has been taken to prevent this: the most scrutinizing examination has been made by competent persons, and information has been in every doubtful case sought from the exhibitors themselves. It is therefore hoped that the omissions will be few and comparatively unimportant.

"The descriptions of the several sections have been given by the following gentlemen, whose thorough acquaintance with the subjects they have undertaken is a sufficient guarantee of the correctness and value of the information contained in the Handbook.

"The productions of the Vegetable and Animal Kingdoms, and the direct manufactures from them, have been described by Professor Edward Forbes, F.R.S.; the Agricultural Implements by Professor Wilson, late Principal of the Agricultural College of Cirencester; and the Agricultural Produce by Mr. Joshua Trimmer, the author of several prize essays on this subject.

"The Machinery and Civil Engineering have been described by Professor Gordon, C.E.; and Military Engineering, Arms, and Maps, by Captain James, R.E. Mr. Holland, of Sheffield, the author of the Treatise on Iron and Steel in 'Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia,' has furnished the section devoted to Sheffield; and Mr. Atkin, of Birmingham, that which deals with the important manufactures of that locality.

"Messrs. Berlyn and Wm. Brough have given the extensive sections of the Foreign Departments, comprehending Precious Metals, Jewellery, Furniture, Printing, Stationery, Fine Arts, and Miscellaneous, their best attention; and to Mr. William Brough we are indebted for the Printing, Type, and Printing Machinery, of the English department.

"For the Mineral Kingdom, Metallurgy, Mineral Manufacture, Precious Metals, Jewellery, Iron, and Hardware, Furniture, Philosophical Instruments, Horology, Music, Glass, Porcelain, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Preparations, Woven and Felted Fabrics, &c., on the English side, and each section not specified in the Foreign Departments, the Editor alone is responsible. To those exhibitors who have furnished information, much of which was of the utmost importance, many thanks are due. Originality has not been aimed at, but every available source of information sought for; and to several periodicals which have devoted themselves to the Great Exhibition the Handbook is under obligations: amongst others, the *Morning Chronicle*, and the *Illustrated London News*, must be particularly named.

"Every care has been taken to render this compilation a record worthy of preservation, as giving, within a limited space, a faithful description of certainly one of the most remarkable events which has ever taken place upon this island, or in the world—the gathering together, from the ends of the earth, of the products of human industry, the efforts of human thought."

FROM 'ATHENÆUM,' Sept. 6, 1851.

"Connected with the Official Catalogues, as supplement and complement to them, is Mr. Robert Hunt's *Handbook*, now published. This little volume—small enough for the reticule

or the coat pocket—is not a dry detail of facts and figures, names and numbers. It goes briefly—but for popular purposes sufficiently—into the science, art, and history of the interesting materials which constitute the world's industrial gathering. If the thing named be a vegetable production, its natural history is stated, as well as the story of its discovery and of the purposes to which it is applied; if it be a machine, its invention and improvements are noted, its effects on manufactures suggested, and whatever else may be of interest to the inquirer is briefly referred to:—and so throughout. The amount of scientific knowledge here compressed into two small volumes is astonishing; and this knowledge is not of an encyclopædian character, such as might be easily compiled from books,—but fresh and recent on all subjects, more especially in the departments of science.

"The most instructive guide to the Exhibition while it is open—we have no doubt that this Handbook will become hereafter one of the most popular mementoes and histories of the actual gathering of the nations."

FROM 'SPECTATOR.'

"Useful in the Exhibition, and agreeable afterwards as a reminiscence of what was seen in the Great Year of 1851."

12. Coloured Lithographic Plan of the Exhibition Building. Price 6d.

13. Penny Letterpress Plan and Guide.

14. French Letterpress Plan and Guide. Price 2d.

15. German Letterpress Plan and Guide. Price 2d.

16. A Popular Guide to the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations, 1851. Containing a Plan of the Building, an Historical Sketch of its Progress and Construction, and an Arranged System by which the Contents can be best examined; with Suggestions for the Guidance of large parties visiting the Exhibition. Price 2d.; or the Plan separately, 1d.

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Alphabetical Index, showing the Locality of Articles exhibited on the British Side of the Building, and the Positions of the Colonies and Foreign Countries—Plan of the Building—Table of Contents, showing the Class or Foreign Country, and the Exhibitors' Number on each page of the Official Catalogue—List of the Local Committees (and names of Secretaries) of the United Kingdom which returned Exhibitors, and Subscriptions to the General Fund, up to the period of the opening of the Exhibition. [Corrected to 29th July, 1851.]—Description of the Building.

ALPHABETICAL AND CLASSIFIED INDEX.—PART I. Alphabetical List of Contributors and others whose names appear in the Catalogue.—PART II. Alphabetical and Classified List of Articles contained in the Catalogue.

DIRECTORY.—LIST OF JURORS.

23. Supplemental Volume, containing the Official and Scientific Report of the Juries upon the whole Exhibition, prepared by authority of H.M.'s Commissioners.

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