

NOTES, REVIEWS AND COMMENTS.

GEOLOGY.—*Summary Report of the Geological Survey of Canada*, by Dr. G. M. Dawson, C.M.G., Director, Ottawa, March, 1896.

This report, just issued, contains many features of great interest to the general public, as well as to those more particularly engaged in mining enterprises, and in scientific work generally. It treats of the work of the whole staff for the year 1895, and shows that the scope of the Survey's work is still as comprehensive as in former years.

The operations of the field staff extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and included another expedition into the interior of Labrador Peninsula in order to complete certain lines of investigation necessarily left unfinished from Mr. Low's former explorations of that area.

All the provinces were included in the Survey's operations with the exception of New Brunswick, the distribution of the parties being determined, as far as possible, in accordance with the importance of the work to be done.

In British Columbia two parties, under the leadership of Messrs. McConnell and McEvoy were engaged; the former more particularly in the Kootenay District, where much attention was devoted to the study and mapping of the rich mineral bearing zones, while the latter was engaged in the study of the country in the vicinity of Shuswap Lakes and south-eastward.

East of the Rocky Mountains the boring operations now being carried on in the Athabasca River district, to determine the value of the great petroleum basin which evidently exists in that part of the North-West, were continued, but the oil-bearing horizon was not reached, owing to the great difficulty encountered from soft strata in prosecuting the drilling. There is, however, a prospect that this important investigation will soon reach a successful issue. The chief work on the plains was carried out by Prof. Macoun, more particularly near the southern border, and was confined largely to the study of the plant and