

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BURMAH.—Burmah, recently annexed to Great Britain, is said to contain 190,000 square miles, and about four millions of people. The existing boundaries are on two sides British territory. China is the immediate neighbour on the north-east, the Shan States, over which Burmah and Siam have at different times held supremacy, forming the boundary on the east and south-east. The country possesses great natural wealth, its productions are numerous and its forests magnificent.

THE SAMOAN ISLANDS.—The Samoan or Navigator Islands, over which Germany has recently placed her flag, are a group in the South Pacific—ten inhabited and two uninhabited, containing about 35,000 people. The natives are superior in bodily and mental endowments to those of other parts of Polynesia—they are Christianized and mostly Presbyterian. The soil is rich, the surface densely wooded, and the products valuable. Since 1879 Great Britain, Germany and the United States have enjoyed a treaty of reciprocity on equal terms with the Islands. It is a little difficult to understand the recent action of the German authorities.

THE FIJI ISLANDS.—There are 312 in this group of islands, forty of which are inhabited. As early as 1846 an American colony was founded on one of the islands, and at present there are 600 American residents on the chief island of the group, Vanalecivo. In 1875 King Cakembau, the chief of the islanders, sent a commission to the United States asking for annexation, which was refused. Subsequently,

England, on account of the large business relations of its people with the islands, offered him protection, and annexed the islands, paying the United States Government £10,000 indemnity. Since that time the English Government has controlled the industries, which are now assuming large proportions. The Americans are all engaged in the culture of cocoa nut. Tea, coffee and tobacco are raised in limited quantities for home consumption and for export to Australia; but the largest industry is the manufacture of sugar, which is turned out by the most approved machinery in very large quantities. All modern improvements and conveniences are to be found in these factories, even to the electric light. These particulars were furnished by the United States Consul, at present in San Francisco.

BULGARIA.—Bulgaria is a country about as large as Scotland, which it resembles somewhat in its varied scenery, being divided into highlands and lowlands, broad plains alternating with lofty mountains. To the south lies the famous Balkan Range, which figures so largely in all the wars which have been waged for the possession of South-Eastern Europe. It is a rugged chain, pierced by narrow defiles which, though not attaining so high an elevation, have the wild and savage character of the passes of the Alps. From this mountain range numerous spurs project into the lowlands, giving to the country an endless variety of surface. Had our course to-day been in that direction, we should have been very soon among these hills and valleys; but, as our route lay toward the Danube, the