

ing as the study of anatomy is useful to painting ; it gives you a more firm hold of the jointing and articulation of your framework ; but it can no more produce true knowledge than anatomy can produce beautiful painting. It performs excellent service in the exposure of error and the unveiling of sophistry ; but to proceed far in the discovery of important truth, it must borrow its moving power from fountains of living water, which flow not in the schools, and its materials from the facts of the breathing universe, with which no museum is furnished.

So it is likewise with metaphysics. This science is useful for two ends, first—to acquaint ourselves with the necessary limits of the human faculties ; it tends to clip the wings of

our conceit, and to make us feel, by a little floundering and flouncing in deep bottomless seas of speculation, that the world is a much bigger place than we had imagined, and our thoughts about it of much less significance. A negative result this, you will say, but not the less important for that ; the knowledge of limits is the first postulate of wisdom, and it is better to practise walking steadily on the solid earth to which we belong, than to usurp the function of birds, like Icarus, and achieve a sorry immortality by baptizing the deep sea with our name. The other use of metaphysics is positive ; it teaches us to be familiar with the great fundamental truths on which the fabric of all the sciences rest.—*The Teacher.*

COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

BY L. W. LYDE.*

COMMERCIAL Geography may be roughly described as “a study of the earth from the standpoint of the intelligent merchant.” It is the office of commerce to organize all the conveniences and commodities of earth, air and sea, that affect human life. Human life has various wants ; and where these wants exist, is a market. Geography enables you to find satisfaction for them.

Commercial Geography is the science which tells you where commodities are found, the conditions under which they can be found, where they are wanted, the ease or difficulty of taking them to such places, and the character of the demand for them. Ignorance of these things is, according to our foreign Consuls, more and

more placing our traders at a grave disadvantage ; and Commercial Geography is the only science which can remove such ignorance.

The requisites for the study of this science are a Globe, a Physical Atlas and a Relief Atlas ; and I may add that the grossest exaggerations in Relief are a very slight blemish, and do not really affect the value of the map for giving a correct idea.

We must have, to start with, a thorough understanding of the shape and motions of the earth so far as they affect climate and movements of wind and water, and a rough knowledge of the distribution of land and water in large masses. This involves reference to surface—which is naturally divided into level and slope—and the effect on both of these of wind and water, alone and combined.

In dealing with a particular coun-

* In *The Oxford University Extension Gazette*.