

contribute to the increase of social wealth the elements of production previously unknown. Thus are we led to receive with interest works which can throw a new light on the condition of regions which may have been known for a long time, and which make known the conditions of their prosperity. It is under this title that the work of the Rev. J. C. Brown on the *Hydrology of South Africa* appears deserving of notice ; but it is so also from other points of view. Mr Brown, after a previous residence in the colony of the Cape, whither he had been sent in 1844 as a missionary and head of a religious congregation, returned thither in 1863 as Professor of Botany in the College of South Africa, and he remained there some years. In both of these positions he had occasion to travel through the colony in all directions, and had opportunities to collect most valuable information in regard to its physical geography. Mr Brown on going out to the Cape knew nothing of the works which had for their object to determine the influence of forests on the climate, on the quantity of rain, and on the river-courses in Europe ; he had never heard mention of the work of M. Surell on the torrents of the Alps, or of that of M. Mathieu on forest meteorology, nor of those of M. Dornotzey, Costa de Bastelica, and so many others on the subject of *reboisement* ; and yet in studying by himself, and without bias, the climatic condition of South Africa, he came to perceive that the disturbances in the regularity of the flow of rivers within the historic period should be attributed in a large measure to the destruction of forests ; and he meets in agreement on this point the *savants* whose names have been mentioned. We have thought it might not be without interest to readers of the *Revue* to have in the lines of Mr Brown a collection of phenomena which, in their manifestation at any specified point are not less due to general causes, the effects of which may be to make themselves felt everywhere where there may be existent the same conditions than to aught else.' And there follows a lengthened article in illustration.

X.—Water Supply of South Africa, and Facilities for the Storage of it. Price 18s 6d.

In this volume are detailed meteorological observations on the humidity of the air and the rainfall, on clouds, and winds, and thunder-storms ; sources from which is derived the supply of moisture which is at present available for agricultural operations in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope and regions beyond, embracing the atmosphere, the rainfall, rivers, fountains, subterranean streams and reservoirs, and the sea ; and the supply of water and facilities for the storage of it in each of the divisions of the colony