analyzed region by region. The text is fully illustrated with clear photographs and maps in black and white. Among the latter attention may be directed to distinctive maps showing the distribution of coffee culture and of tribal areas and village communities. The volume is also accompanied by a plan of the town of San’a and a colored map in three sheets (scale 1:100,000) of the region between Hodeida and San’a, partly based on original route surveys and partly compiled from available sources. So detailed and thorough is the treatment of climate, physiography, geology, vegetation, and human geography that the book is likely long to remain the outstanding authority on the subject.

It is of interest to note that what is probably the most accurate map in existence of the country within a radius of about seventy miles north and northwest of San’a is based on a survey carried out by the orientalist Eduard Glaser as long ago as 1883–1884. Glaser made careful observations of angles and tied these in to thirteen points determined astronomically. The results of this instrumental work were recorded in field diaries, whence Glaser transferred them, together with many details about the country, to a 142-page shorthand manuscript (now in the possession of the Vienna Academy of Sciences). From the data in this manuscript Josef Werdecker has been able to compile the map referred to. In the accompanying article (Neue Karte eines Teiles von Nordwest-Jemen, Petermanns Mitt., Vol. 80, 1934, pp. 148–151) Werdecker takes occasion to give some details on Glaser’s work as well as on other maps of the Yemen.

THE BEDOUINS OF NORTHERN ARABIA

C.AR L. R. R ASWAN. The Black Tents of Arabia (My Life Amongst the Bedouins), 280 pp.; maps, diagrs., illus., index. Hutchinson & Co., London, 1935. 18s. 9½ x 6½ inches.

Today some of the Bedouin chiefs of northern Arabia possess automobiles. Mounted with machine guns and manned by tribesmen equipped with high-powered rifles, these cars are used with deadly effect in raids and intertribal wars. They are also employed in rapid reconnoitering for pasture or water. Distances are covered in a day or two that could hardly have been traversed in a week on camels or horseback. Thus modern inventions are altering the external circumstances of Bedouin existence. As yet, however, if we may believe Mr. Raswan, little fundamental change has taken place in the way of life and point of view of the nomads.

“The Black Tents of Arabia” is a narrative of adventures and incidents, interspersed with glowing descriptions of the desert and its high-spirited inhabitants. A man of feeling, the author writes well and thoughtfully; and he has been fortunate in finding an able translator, for the book was first published in Germany. The Bedouins, as he portrays them, are very much alive. The reader is made to sense the exultation of the raid or hunt in the crisp air, as well as something of the pathos of desert life, when famine threatens or a brave man is shot down from ambush. The photographs are exceptionally fine.

When still almost a boy, in 1912, Raswan was lured into northern Arabia by a passionate interest in the Arab horse. Since then he has many times revisited his friends among the Bedouins. Like Professor Alois Musil of Prague, he was accepted as a member of the Ruala tribe and made a “blood-brother” of their head chief. His book, although not a scientific treatise in any sense, supplements and brings up to date the observations recorded with such meticulous detail in Musil’s “Arabia Deserta” and “The Manners and Customs of the Ruala Bedouins” (Amer. Geogr. Soc. Oriental Explorations and Studies No. 2, 1927, No. 6, 1928; see also Musil’s popular volume, “In the Arabian Desert,” New York, 1930).

In an Appendix Raswan gives some comprehensive notes on the Arab horse. “The climate of Arabia has, of course, something to do with the breeding and development
of these Bedouin horses. They are always roaming over the plains, and across the high plateaux, 2,000 to 3,000 feet up. A dry wind sweeps continually through this wilderness . . . There is no stagnation as in the settled districts of Arabia. Migration is life, and the horse of the desert, though undergoing the hardships and danger of it, comes out a finer product than the animal bred and raised in an oasis. It is, indeed, the test of the survival of the fittest that has preserved the fine qualities in the Arab [horse] throughout the centuries . . ."

**THE FRENCH COLONIAL EMPIRE**


A conspectus of the present state of the French Colonial Empire, a domain covering nearly 11,000,000 square kilometers, supporting nearly 60,000,000 people, and possessing a great variety of resources. Ten authors, under the direction of Guillaume Grandidier, have contributed the several sections. First place naturally goes to French North Africa, for which E. F. Gautier is responsible. In addition to the fundamental hypsometric maps (1 : 1,000,000), other plates in color show geology, precipitation, and phytogeography (1 : 4,000,000), agriculture and, most notably, population classified by language (racial criterion is impossible) and habit (sedentary or nomadic). The maps with their clear transparent colors are most pleasing. The accompanying 48 pages of text contain many black-and-white maps, block diagrams, graphs, and sketches, and the concise regional descriptions are a particularly noteworthy feature. The remaining sections of the atlas, although less detailed, follow a similar plan with variation in treatment and emphasis and in number and scale of maps according to the character and extent of the territory, which ranges from vast French West Africa with its 4,620,000 square kilometers to the oceanic islands.

An excellent critique of the atlas by Ch. Robequin appeared in the January number of the *Annales de Géographie*. By comparison with the “Atlas des colonies françaises” of Paul Pelet published in 1902, M. Robequin brings out the progress achieved both in colonial development and in map making. He deplors the general omission of a bibliography and suggests that space might have been found for it by condensing the letterpress.

**Map Projection**


In the fourth edition of "Elements of Map Projection," which has now become the standard reference work on map projection published in this country, there has been added a résumé of the systems of map projection that are of special interest in problems of the present day. Tables for the gnomonic projection of a map of the United States have also been added, the center of the projection or point of tangency being in latitude 46° and the middle longitude recommended being 96° W. The intervals of the projection are given for every degree. A new table for the construction of a parabolic equal-area projection for world or sectional mapping is given. In addition to these tables, the tables of two conformal projections for a map of the world are