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Der Kanal von Calamotta. 44 pp. and 12 plates. Druck und Verlag von Heinr. Mercy Sohn, Prague, 1910.

The Calamotta Channel is one of the many channels along the Adriatic coast between Fiume and Ragussa. The description of the channel is geographically excellent and the photo-engravings are superb. Like other books issued under the patronage of Prince Ludwig Salvator, no expense has been spared in making this large octavo a sumptuous example of book work.

La Catastrofe Sismica Calabro Messinese (28 Dicembre, 1908.)

By Mario Baratta. xv and 426 pp., thirty plates of engravings, other illustrations and appendix. With volume of maps, diagrams, etc. Presso La Societa Geografica Italiana, Rome, 1910.

This record of the earthquake of Dec. 28, 1908, in Southern Italy and Sicily, issued by the Italian Geographical Society, will stand as an authoritative history and an adequate description and discussion of that catastrophe. The work is divided into four parts, dealing with (1) observations upon the regions affected, (2) the place of origin, nature and effects of the shocks, (3) earthquake sea waves and their effects along the coasts and (4) comparisons with other great Calabrian earthquakes and conclusions.

I danni prodotti dai terremoti nella Basilicata e nelle Calabrie.

Prof. G. Mercalli. Estratto dalla Relazione della Sotto Ginnta parlamentare d'inchiesta sulla condizioni dei contadini nelle provincie meridionali e nella Sicilia. Vol. V—Tomo III, *Basilicata e Calabria*. 17 pp. Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero E. C., Roma, 1910.

Contains lists of earthquakes that have been recorded as occurring in Basilicata (Province of Potenza) and in Calabria. Data concerning many of these earthquakes are briefly given.

POLAR

British Antarctic Expedition, 1907-'09. Under the command of Sir E. H.

Shackleton, C.V.O. Reports of the scientific investigations. Vol. I, Biology. Editor, James Murray. Parts i to iv. 79 pp., 13 plates and figures in the text. William Heinemann, London, 1910. 12s. 6d.

Mr. Murray contributes papers, Parts I-III, "Collecting at Cape Royds," "Microscopic Life at Cape Royds," "Antarctic *Rotifera*"; and Mr. Jules Cardot supplies Part IV, "*Musci*." There are five lakes in the neighborhood of Cape Royds, in which dredging yielded important results, though the bay near which the explorers were in camp was their customary dredging ground. The collecting that could be done on land was of small importance. The most prolific source of fresh-water life was a plant found embedded in the ice of nearly all the lakes. Microscopic life swarmed on this weed, and thus multitudes of living things for study were obtained.

In the sea dredging carried on chiefly in the bay, the bottom seemed to be covered by a carpet of living things, including sponges, sea-spiders, lace-corals, holothurians, file-shells, star-fish and many others. Very little plankton collecting could be done in McMurdo Sound. It was somewhat of a surprise to find an abundant microscopic fauna and flora at Cape Royds. These animals are not at all troubled by the rigors of the climate. "When the cold comes they curl up and go to sleep, it may be for years, and when the thaw occurs they go mer-