

Mr. Reeves said that the Killarney sheet is better in its presentation of the relief. Admitted, yet the finger of God has as much to do with that fact as the hand of man. On the Plymouth sheet we have the infinite variety of the normal English countryside, on the Killarney bold mountain, wide plain, open water, and a clear-cut drainage. I could not in any way question the excellence of Sir Charles Close's topographical scheme, but I do maintain that he had an easier job.

Professor Fawcett has asked some questions about authority for place-names in the 1/M. I have taken the questions to heart and will reply in writing. I cannot give the answer here and now, because I do not know it.

The PRESIDENT: I wish I was not timekeeper as well as President, for there is much I should like to say. When I find myself among a body of experts, as I do this afternoon, I put myself in the position of one of the general public. I say to myself, "What do we demand of this great public body who make our maps?" We demand such a map as Brigadier Winterbotham and his predecessors have given us; a map which when we look at it shows us the natural features of the country, by which we can go from place to place with comparative ease and, so far as our upbringing goes, with no great previous knowledge of how to read a map. What we demand of the public is that they should be able to read a map, for it is a most extraordinary thing that people of all countries travel from place to place more and more, and more and more they display their entire ignorance of what a map really means and how properly to read it. I feel quite sure that Professor Fawcett and his colleagues whose business in life it is to teach geography in all its forms to the rising generation will teach them how to read a map. And I am glad to hear we are paying more attention to the air maps.

You have given us a most interesting afternoon, Brigadier Winterbotham, and we are very much obliged to you: not only a very interesting but also an entertaining afternoon. You have put problems before people which will give them much to think about; and we ask you to accept, on behalf of the audience and of the Society, our most sincere thanks.

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THE NEW ONE-INCH MAP

The newly published Special District Map of Aldershot North in the Fifth (Relief) Edition of the O.S. 1-inch map gives opportunity to see how the new style, which most people have thought so successful on Dartmoor, will suit the complexity of an English countryside with small relief and much detail. In the country between Aldershot and Windsor there is much wood and rough pasture and a good deal of marsh, all of which are represented by symbols on the black plate, and it is open to question whether this plate is not somewhat overloaded thereby, especially with tree signs, through which the smaller names glimmer a little indistinctly. If it is not considered permissible or practical to draw the names rather heavier when they are immersed in much detail, it might be possible to lighten a little the tree signs, especially for conifers. But the names do seem to have lost something of their modelling, as if the drawing had been over-reduced, except the names in Roman lower-case, which are excellent. The double hill-shading, the vague layer-colouring are as successful in this undulating country as on the more strongly modelled. The border has been greatly improved by taking the latitude and longitude division to the outer edge, to keep clear of the grid, and the grid division in each corner is helpful. But it might be worth while to try getting the numbers of the vertical grid lines horizontal and to give the red plate a little more to do by putting county and parish boundaries on it, for boundaries are not topographical features, and the combined county and parish boundary symbol in black is very destructive to others.

We may notice here an article by Mr. Basil Nicholson in the August number of *The Nineteenth Century and After*, which has some just remarks in it, but what

seems to us to be an ill-informed attack on the new 1-inch map. The author condemns the reappearance of hachures; "a system so long obsolete as this refinement of the hairy-caterpillar hill." He has not observed that they are not meant to be looked at as hachures, but are only a skilful use of the existing engraved hachure plates to produce a delicate hill-shading vertical and oblique. His second objection is to the "different type faces," but he has failed to observe that the new alphabets are designed to be drawn with the pen, and are not type faces at all. "The Ordnance Survey has gone historical and introduced into the regular series affectations tolerable on maps of seventeenth-century England, but elsewhere unwise. It is especially regrettable when it is remembered how rich a choice of beautiful and businesslike types have been produced since the war. I have never seen so many affectations gathered together in 3 square feet, except possibly in 'tea shoppe' signs. The *f*, *g*, and *y* are the most striking examples, but the typography as a whole is thoroughly insincere and, after the Scottish sheets, an unpleasant shock to have to use. The types are distinct from one another, but that is all that can be said for them."

However, the *Nineteenth Century* has also gone historical, that is to say, is now printed in an old-style type, whose italic *f* and *y* are very much like what are condemned on the map; and the beautiful (we will not say businesslike) types produced since the war are all modelled on the sixteenth and seventeenth century. Opinions on map-lettering differ widely, as we saw in the famous discussion following Captain Withycombe's paper at an Afternoon Meeting (*G. J.*, vol. 73, p. 429), and there is no arguing with a man who prefers modern face and stump despite their practical disadvantages. The strongest argument for the new Ordnance Survey alphabets is that they can be reproduced without going rotten, and especially in the smaller sizes are much more legible than the old. That is surely businesslike. That they are also beautiful in the eyes of many is because they are carefully designed pen-drawn letters and not type-faces, which never look anything but horrid on maps.

Mr. Nicholson objects also to the new grid which has replaced the old 2-inch square. The new grid squares, he says strangely, have no co-ordinates. On the contrary, the civil advantage of the new continuous grid is precisely that it has co-ordinates, and that these will be the same for a given spot, whatever the scale and whatever the sheet-lines of the map on which that spot is represented. That an orthomorphic projection and its related continuous grid is now essential to national defence may well escape civilian observation, but that hardly justifies him in deriding the national map from the simple point of view of the bird-census-maker.