

**A GEOGRAPHY OF
AUSTRALASIA AND
THE EAST INDIES**

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A Geography of Australasia and the East Indies by Lionel W. Lyde

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A GEOGRAPHY
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AND THE
EAST INDIES

BY
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PREFACE.

IN this Series I have tried to embody the experience of a teacher and of an examiner. For fifteen years I have been teaching Geography constantly to classes of all sizes and all ages; and during the same period I have examined nearly 50,000 candidates in the subject.

This experience has led me to several conclusions, which will, I believe, be confirmed by most practical teachers who are interested in Geography as a subject of real educational value:—

1. That the maps which are so lavishly supplied in modern text-books, cannot generally be used directly with the text, as it is impracticable to have the book open in more than one place at a time; but that their presence in the book has led to neglect of the Atlas.
2. That an excessive variety of type and other mechanical devices for classification are apt to confuse the average pupil.
3. That most text-books contain much which would be better learned from the Atlas, or which is only an unnecessary tax on the memory.

Consequently, this Series contains no maps and little variety of type; and I have intentionally avoided mentioning, *e.g.* exact heights, distances or sizes, small

industries, and unimportant places. Wherever any definite comparisons are made, they are intended only for reference, and not to be learnt; but, of course, in teaching I do use exact standards—taken from our own locality, and therefore not equally useful elsewhere.

I hope, too, that the book has more than these negative merits. I have had the privilege of lecturing on the Teaching of Geography to a large number of practical teachers, including members of the Teachers' Guild, of the National Schoolmasters' Holiday Course, the Education Class in Owens' College, Manchester, and the Teachers' Section of the Oxford Summer Meeting. This book is written exactly on the lines of these lectures, and embodies the criticisms and suggestions of these professional audiences.

L. W. L.

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