

BOOK REVIEWS

The Far East, a Political and Diplomatic History, by PAYSON J. TREAT Ph. D. (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1928. Pp. 549. \$5.00.)

The purpose of this latest work from the skilled pen of the Professor of History at Stanford University is to furnish a textbook for students and a reference work for general readers in the field of Oriental history and diplomacy and their relation to world affairs. There is something highly gratifying in the fact that the public is rapidly awaking to the need of books of this kind and that an increasing band of accomplished scholars is as rapidly arising to meet the need. Among these Dr. Payson Treat has already won a distinguished place and this last volume is just what might have been expected by readers of his earlier work. It is full and accurate, well documented, and written in a style which is easily read and understood. If there is any criticism to be offered, it would be due to the fact that the term "*Far East*" has been rather narrowly construed as referring in the main to the two great countries of China and Japan. Probably this is what the reading public best understands by the term used, and the author is accordingly well justified in his interpretation. It must also be added that one admirable chapter sums up the relations of the United States to the Philippine Islands. The relations of the United States to the policies and problems of the Far East are throughout kept in view and the issues which are of American interest are presented fairly and impartially. Dr. Treat's conclusions will command the assent of all but extreme partisans.

A word of praise should be given for the form and technique of the volume as a piece of book making. There are good maps, ample bibliographies, and an almost complete absence of typographical errors. At least the only one your reviewer has detected is the use of '2,000' for a probable '200' on p 517. We trust "*The Far East*" may have the widest possible use.

HERBERT H. GOWEN.

History of England. By W. E. LUNT. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1928. Pp. 900. \$4.25.)

This book, a worthy addition to Harper's Historical Series, justifies the editorial foreword of Dean Ford: it has maintained

"a sense of selection and proportion by which alone a history of England can be kept from an unmanageable overload of names and political details." In the performance of such a task a certain amount of subjectivity is probably inevitable and the omission of significant detail may lead in certain cases to an apparent lack of precision, but the author's solution of these problems merits praise and places his work in the very forefront of American textbooks on English history. He has so combined the two great factors of medieval constitution-building and modern colonisation and the formation of empire that it is possible for one to gain an adequate view of both without neglecting either. Social, economic, constitutional and religious developments form an integral part of the history and are not treated as matters to be grouped casually in chapters which are really external. Intellectual aspects are more briefly considered. Literature and science are both dropped, doubtless for reasons of space, after the Stuart period. The reviewer finds therefore the names of Bacon, Harvey and Newton, but not of Darwin and his fellows.

The bibliographical portion of the book, written in the form of a running critical commentary, is of rare excellence. This is not merely because the selection of authors and titles is thoroughly up to date: beyond this the critical remarks as to the merits and defects of specific works are supplemented by statements which assign to each book of prime importance its place in the evolution of scientific historical knowledge, which point out subjects and periods which are still in need of constructive treatment, and which describe recent as distinguished from earlier trends of historical investigation. As an example the remarks on the Constitution under Edward I may be cited. They characterise the points of view of Stubbs, Baldwin and Tout, give a brief exposition of the "essentially judicial character of Parliament in Edward's time" as developed by Maitland, McIlwain and Pollard; and suggest that "Edward's relations with the clergy have not received proper attention."

The style of writing throughout is clear and animated.

OLIVER H. RICHARDSON.

The Cabin at the Trail's End; A Story of Oregon. By SHEBA HARGREAVES. (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1928. Pp. 341. \$2.00.)

Mrs. Hargreaves has told a frontier story of Oregon in the