

Aside from a misprint which makes Mr. Holman's name in the preface read as "Holeman," the book seems to be clear from serious typographical errors. A useful reading list contains seven pages of references to the Oregon system. A debt is not only due to the author for this concise and readable book, but to the publishers, A. C. McClurg & Co., as well, for their enterprise in developing a line of books relating to Western America.

CHARLES W. SMITH.

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WHEN THE FORESTS ARE ABLAZE." By Katharine B. Judson. (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1912, pages 380; illustrations 6, \$1.35.)

This delightful new book by Miss Judson deals with the difficulties and perils of the present day frontier life of the Northwest. The scene is laid in the wilds of the Cascade Mountains of Washington. The theme reveals the perils and the romance of the pioneer and the relations of the lumberman and the United States Forest Service to the development of this section of the country. Disappointed in love and tired of the life of the teacher, the heroine leaves the schoolroom to take up a claim in a national forest. With this setting the author has developed a thrilling story, interwoven with a strong love feature, depicting the life of the homesteader and the work of the forest service and its fire fighting heroes. Throughout the story the author shows her intimate knowledge of the life and the conditions of the mountain forests; the trees and shrubs, the wild animals and their habits, the life and the ways of the squatter, the difficult and the pleasing sides of the life of the homesteader, the troubles of the cattle and sheep men, the work of forest ranger, the sportsman and the camper from the city, and the dangers of the forest fire. All of these have been woven into her story to show the ever changing conditions which plunge the human emotions from one extreme into another in this region where primitive wilderness and civilization come in conflict; and they have been combined in her story into situations that are both interesting and instructive. To the layman who is not acquainted with the forest conditions of this region the book offers many practical lessons.

The author is to be especially commended for the excellent presentation, in story form, of the work of the forest ranger. Few of the people of the busy city and the broad farms and ranches realize the importance of the work of these heroes of the forest. With the work that is being done by the United States Forest Service, the ranger is taking his place with the pioneer in opening up the remotest corners of the wilderness to civilization;

but, unlike many of the pioneers of the past, his work is always constructive.

To the uninitiated, Miss Judson's description of the forest fire may seem overdrawn, but there have been many fires that would admit of a far more lurid description. As she shows, the majority of the forest fires are preventable, and it is to be hoped that her book may bear fruit in awakening our congress to the need of an appropriation large enough to prevent them.

HUGO WINKENWERDER.

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SOUTH AMERICA: OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS. By James Bryce. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1912. Pp. 611. \$2.50 net.)

Mr. Bryce's book on South America, appearing at a time when the eyes of the world, especially those of the commercial world, are turned with increasing interest toward that great continent, is a most timely publication upon a subject too little known.

The British ambassador, whose powers of analytical scholarship combined with breadth of vision are so splendidly evidenced in "The American Commonwealth" and "The Holy Roman Empire," has here presented in a more casual way the impressions and observations formed by him during a four months' visit to our sister republics on the South. Seeing his subject from the sympathetic and unbiased viewpoint of the world scholar, Mr. Bryce has made his work interesting and illuminating in the extreme.

The scope of the work includes the aspects of nature, the inhabitants, the economic resources of the several countries, the prospects for the development of industry and commerce, and the relics of prehistoric civilization, the native Indian population, and the conditions of political life in the several republics.

One of the most interesting chapters is the first, which deals with the Isthmus of Panama, and the Canal. Speaking of this undertaking, the author says: "It is the greatest liberty Man has ever taken with Nature." He describes this stupendous engineering project clearly and entertainingly, and highly praises the efficiency of those in charge of the work. To quote: "Never before on our planet have so much scientific knowledge, and so much executive skill been concentrated on a work designed to bring the nations nearer to one another and to serve the interests of all mankind." The marvelous work of sanitation done by our government officials in the Canal Zone is described, and the reader learns with surprise that the Isthmus is now as healthy as any part of the United States, and that no case of yellow fever has occurred since 1905.