

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.

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.

Discussing the government of the Zone, Mr. Bryce instances the success of the commission, as an example of the results obtainable by vesting full administrative control in a "benevolent autocracy," composed of men who have nothing to gain by misuse of their powers. "So far as any political moral can be drawn from the case," he writes, "that moral recommends not democratic collectivism, but military autocracy."

The author indulges in speculation as to the influence this new highway will exert over the routes of world commerce, but declares that the results are largely problematical, and that forecasts on the subject would doubtless make curious reading in the year A. D. 2000.

From Panama, Mr. Bryce journeyed down the west coast and up the eastern coast, visiting the chief places of interest between Lima and Rio de Janeiro. Two-thirds of the volume are devoted to a more or less detailed description of the countries visited. The most interesting chapters, however, are the last one, in which are treated the relations of South America to Europe and to the United States, the conditions of political life in Spanish-America, and certain reflections and forecasts as to the future.

There are more contrasts than resemblances between the people of North America and those of South America. The author states that "Teutonic Americans and Spanish Americans have nothing in common except two names, the name American and the name Republican. In essentials they differ as widely as either of them does from any other group of people."

It is pointed out that the Latin-American republics, in their regard for the United States, and confidence in its purposes, "never quite recovered the blow given by the Mexican War and the annexation of California; but this change of sentiment did not affect the patronage and good will extended to them by the United States." On the whole, it would seem that the United States has abused its strength less than the rulers of the smaller states have abused their weakness. The Monroe Doctrine formerly provided a political tie between them, but now the need for it being felt less, the South American states have begun to regard the situation differently. "Since there are no longer rain-clouds coming up from the east, why should a friend, however well-intentioned, insist on holding an umbrella over us? We are quite able to do that for ourselves if necessary."

Owing to his official position, the distinguished author abstained from discussing current political questions concerning the Spanish-American republics, but contented himself with discussing the philosophy underlying their political life. Too much has been expected of them on account of the magic word "Republic." Their history has not reflected credit upon democracy. Physical, racial, economic, and historical conditions have been

against them; the sham democracies which were established in 1825 were unsuited to their needs. With the happy exceptions of Chile and Argentina, they have never been democracies in fact. Their career has been extremely checkered; but the judgment passed upon them should be more lenient. "Their difficulties were greater than any European people had to face, and there is no need to be despondent for their future."

The country has tremendous possibilities of development. The part that her people will play in the great movements of the world "must henceforth be one of growing significance for the Old World, as well as the New."

In adding this book to his list of great works, Mr. Bryce has performed a valuable service to mankind, and especially to the people of the western hemisphere. It will help to develop an intelligent appreciation and sympathy between the United States and her sister republics of South America.

MALCOLM DOUGLAS.

GUIDE TO THE STUDY AND READING OF AMERICAN HISTORY.
By Edward Channing, Albert Bushnell Hart, and Frederick Jackson Turner. (Boston and London, Ginn & Co., 1912. Pp. 650. \$2.50.)

This is a work already well and favorably known to every progressive teacher and student of American history. The first edition was prepared by Professors Channing and Hart and was published in 1896. This completely revised edition has received the attention of the original authors and that also of Professor Turner, who recently went to Harvard from the University of Wisconsin. With the accession of Professor Turner, it is perfectly natural to expect the new edition to be strengthened on western phases of American history. That expectation is abundantly sustained.

The Pacific Coast and the section between the Coast and the Mississippi River receives fuller treatment than ever given such sections in a similar work. Not only are publications cited, but the development is recognized in the outline.

In addition to this more generous recognition of the West, the authors have combined their skill to make every portion of the book useful. Furthermore it is brought down to date, including such topics as "conservation" and the political contests of 1910. The last section is entitled: "American Society in the Twentieth Century."

The young teacher in his first school, as well as the veteran of much experience in any part of the country whatever, will find this Guide a helpful book.

EDMOND S. MEANY.