

BOOK REVIEWS

Sea-Power in the Pacific, a Study of the American-Japanese Naval Problem. By HECTOR C. BYWATER. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1921. Pp. 334. \$5.00.)

Though the recent Disarmament Conference has changed the threatening conditions in the Pacific, this book is not without its value or timeliness. The reason for its publication is revealed in the opening sentence of the preface:—"The widespread interest evoked by recent developments in the political relations of the United States and Japan will doubtless be considered sufficient justification for a book which deals mainly with the naval resources of those two Powers and the strategical problems likely to arise in the unhappy event of an armed conflict for the mastery of the Pacific."

The two most gripping portions of the book are the chapters devoted to "Strategy in the Pacific" and "Possible Features of a War in the Pacific." In the former is found this statement: "No survey of American base power in the Pacific would be complete without some mention of the Aleutian Islands, Midway Island, Wake Island and Tutuila. The need of a fortified base in the Aleutian group, preferably at Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, has long been urged by the American naval officers. Alaska has been termed 'the storehouse of the future.' * * *The only existing naval station in Alaska is at Sitka, which was established in 1867, but except for a small stock of steam coal, it has no facilities of any kind, and is without defences."

The strategic position of Guam is greatly emphasized and, after discussing many features of a possible war the author says, on pages 293-294: "Having considered the possibilities of a Pacific campaign in which all the advantages of position and base power were on the side of Japan, let us now examine the very different situation that would exist if war was deferred until Guam had been converted into a strong place of arms. The science of fortification has made such progress that this island could be rendered virtually impregnable to naval attack. Batteries of 16-in. or 14-in. guns on high-angle mountings, would have a range at least 10,000 yards in excess of that of any guns mounted on shipboard, and a hostile fleet would thus come under fire long before it could reply."

The author's judgment is clearly shown in his concluding words:—"There is plenty of room in China for all legitimate interests, and if Japan could bring herself to discard the methods she has borrowed from Prussia in favor of a policy of conciliation and genuine friendship with the Chinese people, she would eventually acquire in that quarter predominance which could never be seriously contested. It remains to be seen whether her rulers and statesmen have sufficient acumen to seize the unique opportunity thus presented to them instead of hazarding the fortunes of Dai Nippon in a militarist gamble more reckless even than that which caused the ruin of the German Empire."

The book is enhanced by a specially prepared set of charts folded in at the back.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

A History of the United States. By EDWARD CHANNING. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1921. Pp. 623).

This volume is the fifth in the widely known series by Professor Channing and covers the period of transition from 1815 to 1848. In some respects it differs from the earlier volumes in devoting larger space to social movements. Beginning with the westward movement it sketches the urban migration, the labor movement, abolition, religion, education and literature. These subjects occupy nearly half of the volume. Then follows the history of the period from Monroe to Jackson, and the last third of the volume treats of the western lands and settlements, and the Mexican War. As in all of Professor Channing's earlier volumes the material is sanely and seriously handled and his footnotes bring one in touch with practically all the worthwhile material in the field. The volumes in addition to being good history, well written, are the latest and best bibliography.

EDWARD McMAHON

Recent History of the United States. By FREDERICK L. PAXSON. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1921. Pp. 603. \$5.00).

This volume is additional evidence of the growing interest in the contemporary field of American history. Earlier evidence is found