

BOOK REVIEWS

Buccaneers of the Pacific. By GEORGE WYCHERLY. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1928, Pp. 443. \$5.00.)

In most interesting style, Mr. Wycherley has given to the student of history and the casual reader a fascinating review of the lives of those freebooters and gentleman adventurers who plundered the silver argosies and golden galleons of Spain in the Pacific. The narrative, or series of narratives, is quite obviously the result of rather thorough browsing among the primary sources available.

The first two chapters of the work are introductory, and are replete with scholarly information as to the origin of and differences between pirates, buccaneers and privateers; as to the historical background of the general trade of ship-scuttling and robbery; and concerning those of other nations who roved the Spanish Main, predecessors of the English freebooters who sought riches in the western sea. The remaining thirteen chapters are devoted to the adventures of the dare-devil sons of Britain, twenty-two in all, including such well-known characters as Drake, Morgan, Dampier, Rogers, Anson, Selkirk, and Cavendish. The period covered extends roughly over two centuries; from the sailing of Drake's expedition from Plymouth in November, 1577, to the return of Anson, last of the great South Sea rovers, in 1744.

Mr. Wycherley desires to show that although these gay corsairs "performed some of the most marvelous martial feats, both by land and sea, that ever illumined the pages of history with their crimson glow, or shed the alluring light of romance," at the same time they contributed to an eager world valuable knowledge concerning navigation of the newly traversed seas.

A comprehensive bibliography and a complete index add materially to the value of the book as a reference work. There are thirty-two full page illustrations, which include many maps and drawings reprinted from the original sources.

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The Pacific Area. By CHARLES E. MARTIN and K. C. LEEBRICK, editors. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1929. Pp. 405. Paper, \$2.00; Cloth, \$3.00).

This book contains addresses, conference papers, and round table reports of the Northwest Session of the Institute of Inter-