

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.

EDMOND S. MEANY, JR.

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-

national Relations held at the University of Washington, Seattle, July 22-27, 1928.

The Pacific Area records the inauguration of international relations conferences in the Northwest, and the distilling once more in the interests of international relations of the study and experience of widely scattered scholars, statesmen, and men of affairs.

Functioning as a summer session of the Institute of International Relations which has met each winter since 1926 at Riverside, California, this Northwest conference initiated a biennial gathering to alternate with the biennial conferences of the Institute of Pacific Relations of Honolulu.

The areas taken up were China, Japan, South America, and the British Empire; the general problems were the educational, the commercial and financial, the legal and political, the military and pacific, the social and ethical, the racial, and the research aspects of international relations; devoted to each area and problem, there was a cluster of events such as one or two addresses, conferences, and round tables. Quite frankly utilizing the presentation of conflicting policies by eminent statesmen along with the calculations of statisticians and the findings of historian, social scientist, and experimenter in international co-operation, the conference has left a report which is a credit to its editor-executives, a challenge to the internationally minded, and a body of up-to-date materials most suggestive to the historian.

MAURICE T. PRICE

Medieval Foundations of Western Civilization. By G. C. SELLERY and A. C. KREY. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1929. Pp. 633. \$3.50.)

One always approaches a textbook with mingled feelings. Practical pedagogical needs demand brevity and condensation, a limitation to which it is extremely difficult to subject the truth of historical experience. Good textbooks must be works of art, and will meet with a varied reception. This volume devotes four hundred pages to the Middle Ages and five hundred and eighty-two to the twelve centuries which lie between the decline of the Roman Empire and 1660. This requires more compression than is usually done in textbooks, especially since the authors have sought to include commerce, education, learning, the fine arts, religion, literature, and the culture of the Renaissance. Compared with other works dealing with this period, this book is certainly better in diction and in mechanical workmanship. In spite of the brief treatment the