

BOOK REVIEWS

By PORTER GARNETT

South America As It is

("South America," by James Bryce)

IT is unnecessary to describe as significant and valuable such a work as "South America, Observations and Impressions," by James Bryce (Macmillan; \$2.50). It is unnecessary also to remark upon the author's exceptional intellect or upon his equipment of experience and authority. Neither the book nor the author needs an advocate. Of the contents of the book and of the author's contribution to knowledge and to literature there is much to be said.

Mr. Bryce's work reveals a great deal that should be of interest to every

the vestiges of a former civilization. He devotes a considerable space to a description of the ruins of Cuzco—the former glory of which was likened to that of Rome—and in other parts of this ancient land. The Andes mountains come in for extended notice, and scenery is compared with that of other ranges and they are considered in every aspect—in their terrifying immensity and wildness, in their more genial and beautiful aspects and in the fact that they have been reduced to the will of man by extraordinary feats of railroad engineering. Of these feats one of the most remarkable is the tunnel on the Franco-Andean railroad, between Valparaiso and Buenos Aires. It is 12,000 feet above sea level and on a line which commands some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. The country just out of Valparaiso, Mr. Bryce says, is "much like southern California."

The author adds his testimony to that of other travelers regarding the charms and the civic advancement of Buenos Aires. The Avenida de Mayo, the great street traversing the city, he declares to be "stately than Piccadilly in London, Unter den Linden in Berlin, or Pennsylvania avenue in Washington." "No North American city," he adds, "has a better car service than Buenos Aires." He makes the statement also that the interior of the opera house "equals any in Europe," and says of the Jockey club that its "scale and elaborate appointments surpass even the clubhouses of New York." He describes Buenos Aires generally as being "something between Paris and New York. It has the business rush and the luxury of the one, the gaiety and pleasure-loving aspect of the other. Everybody seems to have money and to like spending it, and to like letting everybody else know that it is being spent."

Mr. Bryce closes his extremely interesting chapter on Argentina with the statement that its people "have an agricultural area still undeveloped which for 50 years to come will be large enough both to attract immigrants and to provide for the needs of their own citizens. Seldom has nature lavished gifts upon a people with a more bountiful hand."

Of Rio de Janeiro he writes: "It would be hard for man to make any city worthy of such surroundings as nature has given to Rio."

The author is concerned by instinct, training and occupation with world questions, and it is only natural that his study of conditions in South America should throw light upon various questions of political, religious and social life, as they bear upon matters of government. He writes pertinently upon the political and social conditions that so frequently occur, and suggestively regarding their abatement. The so-called republics of South America, in his opinion, are in reality various forms of benevolent despotism. The people are as yet incapable of constitutional self government, and democracy is still far distant. An era of definite progress, however, toward efficient and wise government has begun, while industrial progress has in certain countries kept pace with that of the rest of the world. Mr. Bryce says in his introduction:

"Of the political history of these republics very little is said in this book, and of their current politics nothing at all. That is a topic on which it would not be fitting for me to enter."

The caution of the diplomat is to be observed also in the author's cautiousness about the Monroe doctrine. His conclusion that the necessity of protection having passed, the policy of protection is not needed. He quotes an unnamed South American as saying: "Since we are no longer rain clouds coming up from the east, why should we insist on holding an umbrella over us? We are able and able to do that for ourselves if necessary."

The last and most pregnant chapter in this book of 600 pages is entitled "Some Reflections and Forebodings." After he has discussed in previous chapters the South America of the past and the present, the author in this final section of his work considers suggestively the South America of the future. He concludes with the following words: "South America, which has hitherto, except at rare intervals, stood outside the world of trade, politics and thought, has now begun to affect the commercial and financial movements of the world. She may before long begin to affect its movements in other ways also, and, however little we can predict the part that her peoples will play, it must be one of growing significance for the old world as well as for the new."

This book in which the author of "The American Commonwealth" has brought his brilliant intellect to bear upon a subject of great and growing importance will be found to supply the essential facts regarding the development which interests him in Argentina and Uruguay. In Chile and Brazil he must be always thinking of both."

Mr. Bryce's discussion of Peru is largely retrospective. The interest there is, as he says, in nature and in

The Prize Beauty

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"THE MIDLANDERS," by Charles Tenney Jackson (Bobbs-Merrill; \$1.35) has all the elements of a good story. It has strength, sweep and detail, and combines interest of plot with admirable characterization and the dramatic interplay of passions observed under unusual and often intense conditions.

The most striking impression conveyed by this story is a sense of its breadth as an interpretation of certain phases of American life. It has breadth rather than depth; or, to be more precise, it has depth only in spots. There are parts of the story which, compared to others, seem almost shallow. Mr. Jackson holds to the level of higher fiction in the first part of his book, but as the story progresses he seems to have been betrayed by his facility into some of the melodramatic flimsiness of "The Day of Souls." There is one thing, however, that he has overcome; in "The Midlanders" he does not, as in "The Day of Souls," overload his picture with detail in an attempt to get local color.

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though he has succeeded in writing an excellent and absorbing story. The career of the mature Aurelle begins when she wins a beauty prize offered by a Chicago paper. She is a strange girl, in an strange secluded life, but her constant and consuming wish is "to be somebody." She wishes to be good enough for her aristocratic lover, Harlan Van Hise, the son of the local judge. Harlan's mother does not look with favor upon her son's attachment for Aurelle and it happens that she loses a damaging suit for an injury sustained at the mill where he works, contends the court and is sentenced to 24 hours in jail by Harlan's father.

This is the situation in which Aurelle, becoming suddenly famous as the prize beauty, receives an offer to go on the stage, which she accepts. Through failure and success she becomes a religious fanatic, breaks out with homicidal mania when his land is trespassed upon, and, barricading himself in his cabin, deals death to all who approach. To say that the dramatization of these later scenes is admirably achieved is more to the point than to relate their details or their outcome. These the reader must be allowed to discover for himself.

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James Bryce

Intelligent American. It should be of interest particularly to the younger generation of Americans, who may see in the South American continent a land of opportunity. How truly it is the land of opportunity, how much more than any other undeveloped country in the world it deserves, because of the richness of its resources, its possibilities for industrial and commercial expansion, to be called to the attention of the people of the United States toward the South American republics is, speaking broadly, an attitude of unsympathy and ignorance. It is this attitude that Mr. Bryce's book will correct. Unfortunately, however, the people of the United States are incurious of South America in all but a superficial sense, and it is interesting to note how much more attention is given to the southern continent by English reviews and London weeklies than by any of our American periodicals. All of which goes to show that Mr. Bryce's book is as timely as it is informing.

The author's travels consumed only four months, in which time he visited the seven republics of Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, but the resultant work is so rich with the information of a trained observer that the brevity of the author's visit can not be regarded as in any essential way limiting the value of his work.

A feature of the work that will be of special interest to Californians is the first chapter, in which Mr. Bryce deals graphically with the Panama canal. His impressions of the economic significance, as well as the physical character of the canal, are broadly and interestingly expressed. He declares himself in his preface to be under obligations to Colonel Goethals and Colonel Bergas and discharges at least a part of his indebtedness by splendid tributes to the efficiency of those two gentlemen in their respective capacities as chief engineer and head of the medical staff. The sanitation zone, which he calls for his special commendation. Regarding the great engineering achievement of which he furnishes much well considered information he says: "The magnitude and the methods of this enterprise which a poet might take as his theme. Never before on our planet have so much labor, so much scientific knowledge and so much executive skill been concentrated on a work designed to bring the nations nearer to one another and serve the interests of all mankind."

Mr. Bryce concludes his chapter on the Panama canal thus epigrammatically, "It is the greatest liberty man has ever taken with nature."

Throughout his work the author has combined observation and description with now and then an excursion into history, and here and there an intersection of philosophy. When he goes to Peru, which, like Bolivia, is a country in which, he says, "it is nature that chiefly engages the traveler's mind," he is in a country in which development which interests him in Argentina and Uruguay. In Chile and Brazil he must be always thinking of both."

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South America As It Isn't

("The Lost World," by A. Conan Doyle)

SINCE the appearance of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's latest novel, "The Lost World" (George H. Doran Co.; \$1.25), the author's friends have doubtless been rather busy congratulating him upon his creation of another character new to fiction. Such a creation is the character of Professor Challenger, a burly and ferocious man of science, who vilipends or manhandles every one who questions his authority in matters of science generally and particularly with regard to the discovery of prehistoric forms of life amid the wilds of South America. Professor Challenger's fertility in the language of contemptuous abuse is amazing and amusing. He is at the same time curiously childlike in the same time curiously childlike in the weakness of his vanity. But in spite of his faults the reader can not help liking him, because he not only has the courage of his convictions, but physical courage as well.

In addition to giving us Professor Challenger, Sir Arthur has written a remarkable story of adventure. This may not be in itself a recommendation, because the supply of such stories is sufficient for all our needs; but the adventures in "The Lost World" are interesting mainly on account of their complete incredibility.

The greater part of the action takes place in the heart of the South Amer-

ican wilderness, whither a duly appointed commission, consisting of a scientist, a sportsman and a reporter, has gone for the purpose of proving the truth of the story of Professor Challenger's incredible statements regarding the existence there of such prehistoric monsters as pterodactyls, dinosaurs and the like. The professor and himself joins the party unexpectedly and guides it to a place far in the interior of the Amazon country, where there is an enormous mesa. How they gain the top of the mesa, how they are but apparently forever—from the rest of the world, and how they finally escape are merely incidents. The chief interest of the story lies in their experiences while on top of the mesa, the complete isolation of which from the surrounding country has enabled the prehistoric life to flourish. Perilous encounters with flocks of pterodactyls and herds of iguanodons are almost daily occurrences. Malone, the reporter, who tells the story of the expedition in a record kept for his paper, is chased by a flesh eating dinosaur, and the whole party undergoes trying experiences when captured by a band of apemen.

The scenes laid in London, both before the expedition sets out and after its return, are rich with humor and satire, qualities which dominate the story and make it interesting from beginning to end.

SHORTER REVIEWS

Connoisseurship

Amateur collectors and persons desiring special knowledge about old china, old furniture and such other forms of applied art as brasses, pewters, coppers, etc., will welcome a copiously illustrated volume entitled "Bypaths in Collecting," by Virginia Robie. (Century Company; \$2.40).

Miss Robie's book is for the amateur and goes a great way toward taking the place of larger works that are prohibitive in price for all but the serious collectors. It furnishes just the sort of information that the amateur of moderate means and moderate experience needs.

The famous porcelains, such as Staffordshire, Wedgwood, Worcester, Dresden and the better known wares of China and Japan are discussed from the various points of view of history, age, form, decoration and value. Chippendale, Hepplewhite and other styles of furniture are expertly dealt with and their "points" are described. The author takes up a number of other branches of collecting and rounds out an admirable treatise of 565 pages.

"The Control of Trusts" The subject described in the title of this little book, "The Control of Trusts," by John Bates Clark and John Maurice Clark (Macmillan; \$1.00), is one which commands the most widespread interest. The present edition is expanded from an earlier one, published many years ago, and contains much new and pertinent material drawn from recent conditions. The authors are right in claiming for their work a constructive character, for they make definite proposals looking to an abatement of the trust evil. They do not think that the trusts in one form or another can be legislated out of existence, but they argue for regulation of competition which shall protect the small dealer against monopoly. The treatise is brief but thorough, and is presented with force and fairness.

"The Girl and the Married Man" The problem of a new novel by "M. P." who wrote "The Journal of a Recluse" has to do with the love of a girl for a married man. "Kirstie" (Thomas Y. Crowell company; \$1.25)—it can scarcely be called a solution—will be followed by "The Girl and the Married Man" in its presentation, which is admirable. Kirstie adopts the profession of trained nurse only to find that a patient to whom she is called to the home of the man with whom she herself had had an unhappy love affair. The old love is revived and Kirstie struggles vainly to master the impulses of her heart. She refuses an escape through marriage to another man, and finally realizes the full tragedy of the situation when she finds another girl prepared to solve the like problem in the natural but the unconventional way; that is, by elopement. If the story stopped here most readers would supply their own endings in a way other than that of the author. There will be those, however, who will think that the way he closes his story is the only way. "Kirstie" is undoubtedly one of the most vital of recent books.

"The Forgiveness of Sins" "Rhody," by Frances S. Brewster (George W. Jacobs & Co.; \$1) is the story of New England, which begins with such simplicity that the reader will not at first suspect the tragic events to which it ultimately leads. We find Rhody a little child playing with her doll and leave her an old woman over whom life has swept like a fame. The nobility of her character is shown in sharp contrast with that of her weak husband, whose repeated failures of decency and honor are always met by her forgiveness and willingness to help him out of the quicksands into which his weakness betrays him. The story is an unusual study of the domestic drama.

Best Art for Children An admirable introduction to a knowledge of art and history among children will be found in Lorinda Monson Bryan's "Famous Pictures of Real Boys and Girls" (John Lane; \$1.25). The book contains 76 of the most famous pictures of children, including

Pictures from 'The Midlanders'



Charley Tenney Jackson, author of "The Day of Souls,"

JUVENILES

TALE OF THE REVOLUTION Parents scrupulous about the sort of books their children read will find an excellent example of the right sort in "The Lucky Sixpence" by Ernest Benson Knipe and Aiden Arthur Knipe. Indeed, parents will be tempted to read this charming story of revolutionary adventures of a young boy, which takes the reader across the Atlantic to the Americas, and how, with her cousin, John Travers, she aids the cause of the colonies. George Washington comes on the stage, and so do Benjamin Franklin and Lord Howe. The story is excellent in plan and manner. (Century company; \$1.25.)

"The Merryman's Christmas Eve," by Frances S. Porcher (The Reilly & Britton Co.; 50 cents), is a neatly made little volume. The story is of an old servant who is faithful even after death and whose faithfulness is finally appreciated.

The four stories by John Kendrick Bangs gathered under the title, "A Little Book of Christmas" (The Reilly & Britton Co.; \$1.00), may be truthfully described as stories that are suitable to both children and "grownups." It is not uncommon to find such a claim as this made for books that are essentially juvenile; but these stories of Mr. Bangs fill the twofold function so admirably that the volume containing them should make an excellent Christmas present "for all the family."

A Christmas book entitled "Childhood" is designed for lovers of children. The volume, which is 10 by 12 inches in size, contains 20 charming photographs of children by Cecilia Bull Hunter and Caroline Ogden, accompanied by verses from the facile pen of Burgess Johnson.

Those who would like to read a story saturated with southern atmosphere will find it in "Miss Beauty," by Helen S. Woodruff. The tale is charming and contains a number of well drawn types, the vehicles for the author's pleasing humor.

"The Book of Comfort," by J. R. Miller (Crowell; \$1) is a devotional book in which the author sets forth his interpretations of the Christian spirit of kindness.

The purpose of "Melindy," by Stella G. S. Perry (Moffat, Yard & Co.; \$1) is that of its central character; namely, "to be sweet and pleasant; help help make folks happy."

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The elements of a typical story of the northwest are to be found in "The Man at Lone Lake," by Verna Sheard (Cassell & Co.; \$1.25). There are few characters, but these go through many desperate adventures in the Canadian woods.

Two volumes from the Columbia University press contain respectively the varied contributions to the study of Greek literature and archaeology by the late Prof. Mortimer Lamson Earle and a series of lectures on Greek literature delivered at Columbia university by a number of notable scholars.

A second edition, revised and enlarged, of "Rules of Isaac Pitman Shorthand in a Nutshell" has been issued by Isaac Pitman & Sons, New York. The price is 35 cents.

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"The Mermaid's Gift," by Julia Brown, is a most attractive looking book for children, and an examination of its contents prove it to be as good as it looks. The series of which there are six, are genuine fairy tales. They are fresh and pleasantly told. The colored illustrations by Margnet Wright Enright are fanciful and charming. (Rand; McNally & Co.; \$1.25.)

LIKE "UNCLE REMUS" Animal stories of the "Uncle Remus" order are to be found in a book for young people entitled "Next Night Stories" (Lothrop, Lee & Sheppard company; \$1).

"The Ranch Girls' Pot of Gold," by Margaret Vandercook, tells of the real-life adventures of the four ranch girls leading up to the finding of a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. (The John C. Winston company; \$1.)

"The Brick House" books by Nina Riddick are a series of four, which are added to their number, entitled "Little Queen Esther," (Lothrop, Lee & Sheppard company; \$1.)

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Notes and Gossip of Books and Their Authors

H. G. Wells, the English novelist, has written a book for children, which is entitled "Floor Games," and is a fascinating unfolding of the possibilities of the floor and wooden blocks. The book is a story of a boy and his friends who find something which no one but Mr. Wells seems to have thought of putting into literary form. Mr. Wells' two sons' boyish faces adorn the cover of the book, which introduces you to the uncharted mysteries of the Green Lagoon seas and of fascinating adventures with the strange tribes that inhabit the somber virgin forests of the woolly heath rug.

Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. have recently issued "The Collectors," a volume of stories by Frank Jewett Mather Jr., professor of art at Princeton. They touch on such matters as an able and candid picture forger, an artful great lady and an artless expert, Italianate Americans, the triumph of a resourceful dealer over two critics and a captain of industry, etc. The whole commences with a ballade and ends with reflections upon art collecting.

"The Maker of Rainbows," by Richard G. Gallienne, has been published by the Harpers. These tales of the Rainbow Maker who turned a child's tear into a rainbow, of Queen Copetua longing again for her old rags, of the duke who loved his bees better than the splendors of his dukedom, of the miser whose gold could not buy lovers' dearest, are presented in a holiday garb, illustrated in color by Elizabeth Shippen Green.

On the slylist of Henry van Dyke's new book of fiction, "The Unknown Quantity," a Book of Romance and Some Half Told Tales" (Scribners), is the familiar phrase, "Let X equal the unknown quantity." It contains a number of "Half Told Tales" and 11 longer stories, all of which have in common "The Unknown Quantity"—that un-

known quantity, which goes by many names but is here revealed as a moral quality founded on the spiritual ideal.

Elias Carman, whose association with the late Richard Hovey is celebrated in the "Stories From Vagabondia," has a new book entitled "Echoes From Vagabondia," published by Small, Maynard & Co., the publisher of the Carman-Hovey Vagabondia volumes.

General Morris Schaff's new book, "The Sunset of the Confederacy," published by John W. Luce & Co., November 1, is one of the important books of the year. In this new volume the writer's intimate personal narrative of the close of the great conflict is given. It covers the operations of the army of the Potomac and the army of northern Virginia from Five Forks to Appomattox, and includes an estimate of Lee that is new and of great interest.

"The Financier," Theodore Dreiser's new novel, is just being published by Harper & Brothers. It is a story of the lust for wealth which became rampant after the civil war, and deals with the alliance between the mammon and politics. The career of a Philadelphia financier is followed from his boyhood, through success, to his imprisonment in the penitentiary for misappropriating city funds. Unlike Mr. Dreiser's "Jennie Gerhardt" or "Sister Carrie," "The Financier" has a man for its principal character.

"The Mermaid's Gift," by Julia Brown; "As He Was Born," by Tom Gallon; "George H. Doran"; "Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist," by Alex. Berkman; "Mother Earth Publishing company, New York."

"A Cry in the Wilderness," by Mary Waller; "Littie Brown"; "The Place of Honeybees," by Harold McLaughlin; "The Hobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis."

"The Illusions of Mr. and Mrs. Brewster," by Gerard Benda; John Lane & Co., New York.