

*Santo Domingo: a Country with a Future.* By OTTO SCHOENRICH.  
(New York: Macmillan Company. 1918. Pp. xiv, 418. \$3.00.)

In addition to a long introductory historical sketch and a chapter on the Remains of Columbus, this volume contains conscientiously informative chapters on area and boundaries, flora and fauna, transportation, commerce, cities, the people, religion, education and literature, government, politics and revolution, law and justice, finances and debt, and the future of the country; and scattered biographical data of historical importance. Judge Schoenrich knows intimately the Dominican people, and their land even in its remote recesses. The reader relies upon this personal knowledge; and this reliance is increased by the repeated evidences of the author's shrewd common sense, and of his very evident desire to be fair to the Dominican people.

The chronological, historical sketch (pp. 1-96) is not very satisfying. Very many of its data are advantageously repeated in later chapters. Still more could well have been thus disposed of, and the remainder subjected to some analysis and topical synthesis. The chapter on the Remains of Columbus (pp. 276-302)—with diagrams, drawings, and translations of documents—is less full than the portion of Thacher's *Christopher Columbus* (III. 534-613) dealing with the same subject, but it is conscientious and excellent (and the translations from Spanish are better than Mr. Thacher's). The author states in his preface that he has "endeavored to read all books of any consequence which have been published with reference to Santo Domingo", and he includes in his bibliography three studies on the problem of Columbus's remains; he does not list, however, HARRISSE's somewhat over-argued essay *Los Restos de Don Cristoval Colón* (Seville, 1878), nor the volume by Roque Cocchia (*Los Restos de Cristobal Colón*, Santo Domingo, 1879), apostolic delegate to Santo Domingo in 1877 and in charge of the exhumation of that year, nor the Spanish Academy's intemperate and unsatisfying *Los Restos de Colón, Informe de la Real Academia de la Historia* (Madrid, 1879)—not to mention other contributions to the controversy, including Mr. Thacher's. In short, the chapter does not represent exhaustive research, yet such research would probably only have confirmed the author in his conclusion that the remains of Columbus rest in the cathedral church of Santo Domingo. "The Spanish writers", as Judge Schoenrich says (and the same is true of HARRISSE), "present no proof that the remains taken to Havana in 1795 were those of Christopher Columbus, but limit themselves to attacking the find of 1877. . . . On the whole, the weight of evidence is strongly in favor of the Dominican contention." This conclusion seems to the reviewer sound (as it evidently seemed to Mr. Thacher), although the truth cannot be now, and probably never will be, conclusively proved.

A real defect is the omission of a chapter on economic history. Various data in this field can be located through the index ("bucca-

neers", "corsairs", "mining", "negroes", "population", "slavery", etc.), but the index is decidedly incomplete. The chapters on politics and government are decidedly the best of the book, but there is hardly a specific reference to the difficulties in the way of self-government (pp. 175, 326 ff.); and the discussion of constitutions and their changes, and of revolutions, ignores many fundamental questions that any student of government would immediately propound.

The most that can be said is that the book is welcome for what it is—a fair-minded, conscientious, glorified guide-book, with many historical data. In physical make-up and appearance, too, the volume leaves little to be desired. (Misprints: pp. 34, 52, 123. Inconsistent dates: pp. 52 and 48, 279 and 337.)

F. S. P.

#### MINOR NOTICES

*The Theory of Environment, an Outline of the History of the Idea of Milieu, and its Present Status.* By Armin Hajman Koller, Ph.D., Instructor in German in the University of Illinois. (Menasha, Wisconsin, George Banta Publishing Company, 1918, pp. 104, \$1.00.) This small volume forms the first part of an extended treatise to be published shortly. It consists almost wholly of quotations and brief summaries setting forth the views of a great number of writers on the influence of environment in history. In a rather superfluous Introductory Remark (pp. 1-6) the author sketches the history of the word "milieu" as signifying environment. Then in two chapters (pp. 7-92) he traverses "the history of the idea of milieu" from the Hebrew prophets down to the present day, this history consisting entirely of citations from individual authors arranged in chronological sequence. In a brief concluding summary (pp. 93-96) he attempts to gather up the results of his study.

It goes without saying that an authoritative treatise in this difficult field must come from the hand of a scholar thoroughly at home in both geography and history. Such the present writer appears not to be. The standpoint of his book is that of the philologist or literary worker, not that of the scientist or historian. The author shows inadequate power of discrimination between great names and small. Little special stress is laid on the writers who have exercised fundamental influence on the development of modern anthropo-geography. In many instances he seems to have read about the authors he cites rather than to have read them for himself. His book has a certain value as a concise guide to the literature in the field. But it does not present a coherent history of the doctrine of environment. Least of all does it set out in a clear light the constructive evolution of the science of anthropo-geography in its relations with the modern scientific movement and the new history. Such an achievement is intrinsically beyond the powers of any but the broadest and most mature scholarship.

A. B. S.