

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

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graces of presentation. The narrative unfolds slowly, step by step, in a dogged and often pedantic manner. But the record is surely worth having, and it is here set forth fairly and completely. The work is heavily documented, and there is an index at the end of each volume. The author is professor of comparative government at the State University of Louisiana.

THE EVOLUTION OF CULTURE.

By *Julius Lippert.* *The Macmillan Company*
\$5 8½ x 5½; 716 pp. *New York*

Lippert, who died in 1909, was one of the founders of sociology, and the present work, in its original German form, has had a great influence. But this is the first English translation to be published. It is the work of Dr. George Peter Murdock, assistant professor of the science of society at Yale, and is both readable and accurate. At the end Dr. Murdock prints appendices on certain moot points—primitive promiscuity, the priority of mother-right, the origin of exogamy, and the couvade—, setting forth the conclusions of the principal authorities. He notes in his preface that "The Evolution of Culture", in more than one way, belongs to ethnology rather than to sociology, but argues that Lippert's viewpoint was always fundamentally sociological. This is surely borne out by an examination of the text. The point, however, is of small importance; the main thing is that the work shows immense learning, a fine speculative originality, and a high capacity for plausible generalization, and is thus of great value, whatever it may be called. Moreover, it is pleasantly written, and thus has something to say to the general reader as well as to the specialist. Dr. Murdock's translation is heavily documented, and includes a bibliography and a good index.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIOLOGY TO SOCIAL WORK.

By *Robert M. MacIver.* *The Columbia University Press*
\$2 8 x 5½; 110 pp. *New York*

Dr. MacIver is Lieber professor of political philosophy and sociology at Columbia. He thinks that all social workers should be thoroughly grounded in sociology, for "it provides the basis for the development of that social philosophy which must underlie the art of social work, which must integrate the thinking of the social worker, which must control the direction and illuminate the goal of his activity." This is his main thesis. Some of the corollaries which naturally flow out of it are equally startling.

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For example: (a), "The social worker has to become increasingly a specialist in his or her chosen field, just because social institutions have themselves become specialized. One can no longer go round dispensing indiscriminate social service;" (b), The social worker can never achieve his end "if he is merely the master of a few techniques. His work calls for breadth of perception and of imagination." A brief bibliography and an index are appended.

HISTORY

CARIBBEAN BACKGROUNDS & PROSPECTS.

By *Chester Lloyd Jones.* *D. Appleton & Company*
\$4 8¾ x 5¾; 354 pp. *New York*

This is perhaps the best one-volume study of the social and economic forces operating in the Caribbean that has yet appeared in English. Dr. Jones, who is professor of economics and political science in the University of Wisconsin, takes up all of the countries and colonies in that general area, and after giving a rapid survey of their histories, he considers their racial, health, and educational problems. He then deals extensively with the shifting fruit, vegetable, and oil trades. Finally, he devotes two chapters to public loans and foreign investments. Throughout his study he naturally gives special attention to the Caribbean activities of the United States. Our exports to the Caribbean countries in 1929 amounted to \$395,000,000, or 7.5% of our total exports; our imports in the same year came to \$506,000,000, or 11.5% of our total imports. Our exports consisted mainly of textiles, machinery and vehicles, chemicals, and sundry specialties. In the way of imports the Caribbean region "became the great supplier of tropical fruit to the American market, shipping all but an insignificant portion of such imports; it became the second most important source of coffee supplies, the greatest source of crude petroleum imports, and practically the only source of imported sugar." Dr. Jones is not very definite in his opinion about the safety of investments and loans in those lands, but he seems to think that defaults will become rarer and rarer, since the various governments are gradually becoming more stable. There is a bibliography, and also an index.

KING COTTON DIPLOMACY.

By *Frank Lawrence Owsley.* *The University of Chicago Press*
\$5 8¾ x 6; 617 pp. *Chicago*

Dr. Owsley's thesis is that if, at home, the social and economic institutions of the Confederacy rested

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upon cotton, "abroad its diplomacy centered around the well-known dependence of Europe, especially England and France, upon an uninterrupted supply of cotton from the Southern States." He traces minutely the diplomatic history of the Confederacy, from the first envoys, William Lowndes Yancey, Pierre A. Rost, and Ambrose Dudley Mann, through the Kenner Mission, and he discusses exhaustively such topics as the ineffectiveness of the blockade, the hostile attitude of France, and Mann's mission to Rome. It is a monumental work, disclosing much hitherto unpublished data from European archives. There is a lengthy bibliography, followed by an index.

FOLLOWING THE PRAIRIE FRONTIER.

By Seth K. Humphrey.

The University of Minnesota Press
\$2.50 8 1/2 x 5 3/4; 265 pp. Minneapolis

Mr. Humphrey, who now lives in Boston, was born at Faribault, Minn., then on the frontier, in 1864. His father, a New Englander, was one of the pioneers of the region, and as boy and young man he roved through all the Minnesota country, and beyond it into the Dakotas. His recollections contain nothing extraordinary, but they are full of the reflections of an unusually intelligent man. He deals at some length with certain episodes that threaten to be forgotten—the Indian messiah craze of the late '80's, culminating in the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890; the farm mortgage collapse in 1889; the rush into the Cherokee Strip in 1893, and so on. The book has one illustration. It lacks an index.

A GUIDE TO HISTORICAL LITERATURE.

Edited by William Henry Allison, Sidney Bradshaw Fay, Augustus Hunt Shearer & Henry Robinson Shipman.

The Macmillan Company
\$10.50 8 1/2 x 5 3/4; 1222 pp. New York

In December, 1919, the American Historical Association appointed a special committee, with Dr. George M. Dutcher of Wesleyan University as chairman, to prepare a bibliographical manual of history in coöperation with the American Library Association. The manual of C. K. Adams, published in 1882, was taken as a model, but soon it was seen that the plan of that work would have to be extended. Dr. Dutcher retired in 1928 and the present editors took over the work. The result is a reference book of very great value. Practically every important historical work, from the most ancient times to the present, is listed and the contents of each are described, usually with the addition of a brief critical

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