

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from page viii

RED VILLAGES.

By Y. A. Yakovlev. *The International Publishers*
\$1.50 7¼ x 5¼; 128 pp. New York

THE SUCCESS OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

By V. M. Molotov. *The International Publishers*
\$1.25 8¾ x 5½; 77 pp. New York

Mr. Yakovlev is people's commissar of Agriculture of the U.S.S.R. In the present book he deals wholly with the operation of the Five-Year Plan in Soviet agriculture. He points out that the collectivist movement has spread beyond the most sanguine hopes of the Soviet agricultural experts, though he is quick to add that because of the rapidity of the change from the old primitive methods of farming to the modern Socialistic, machine methods, there is considerable inefficiency. His main conclusion is that "on the basis of collectivization and on the basis of the state farms, we shall undoubtedly be able to overtake other nations more rapidly than heretofore." Mr. Molotov is chairman of the Council of Peoples' Commissars, and his book contains the full report he made on the activity of the government of the Soviet Union at the Sixth All-Union Soviet Congress, held at Moscow in March of this year. He deals, not only with the internal relations of the country, but also with its foreign relations. He is particularly vigorous in his handling of the charge that Soviet dumping is largely to blame for the present world-wide depression. "In 1913 the share of Russia in the world export trade was approximately 3.5 per cent. This share was not very large, but up to the moment the Soviet Union has not even reached this level. In 1930 our share of the world export trade was 1.9 per cent."

THE ECONOMIC HANDBOOK OF THE SOVIET UNION.

The American-Russian Chamber of Commerce
\$1 7¼ x 5; 151 pp. New York

Here, in brief space, is all that the American business man who wants to trade with Russia has been after in the way of fundamental information. In addition to up-to-date and detailed statistical data regarding the development of various branches of industry, agriculture and transportation, some of the schedules of the economic programme for 1931 are also given. Among the industries discussed in detail are the following: coal, peat, oil, iron and steel, manganese, automobile, chemical, paper, food and textiles. There are sections on the financial and concessions situation, and on educational and cultural developments. All of the information is based on

official Soviet documents. "While the Chamber cannot guarantee the figures contained in this handbook, it sponsors their publication in the belief that they are as reliable and as free from inaccuracies as any such compilations can be made." Among the organizations represented in the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce are the International General Electric Company, the American Locomotive Company, the Vacuum Oil Company, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Westinghouse Electric International Company, the Chase National Bank, the American Express Company, General Motors, and the Underwood Elliott-Fisher Company. There are two maps and a good index.

STARK INDIA.

By Trevor Pinch. *D. Appleton & Company*
\$3 8¾ x 5¾; 288 pp. New York

Mr. Pinch has resided in India for some time, and has been engaged in journalism there off and on. What he says in the present book will not be new to those who have kept in close touch with the literature about the country, but others will find it a calm and orderly study. He believes that India can be kept within the Empire if she is handled with the utmost tact and decency, but he thinks that there are "seven pivotal factors of the situation" which demand prompt redress "if the Dependency is ever to achieve the glorious future so keenly desired by millions of her friends": the overemphasis of purely sex ideas in the great religions of the people, the chronic ill health of the mass and the ridiculously small expenditure on efforts to improve it, the swarm of medical fakers, the inhuman treatment of the 60,000,000 untouchables, the extreme poverty of the masses, the muddled state of education, and the domineering type of Indian civil servant. "If we lose India, the bottom drops out of the Empire, and we are faced with bankruptcy." There are several illustrations and an index.

THE SCIENCES

OCEANOGRAPHY.

By Henry B. Bigelow.
\$2.50 *The Houghton Mifflin Company*
8 x 5¼; 263 pp. Boston

In this volume Dr. Bigelow does not attempt to make a textbook; his purpose is simply "to appraise the present condition of oceanographic research with reference to the more outstanding problems, so as to take bearings for future researches." His knowledge of the subject is immense, and he has a great

Continued on page xii



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