THE AMERICAN MERCURY



HISTORY

AUTOPSY OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE.By Gaston Nerval.The Macmillan Company\$3.505 ½ x 8 ½; 357 pp.New York

This is a bitter attack upon the Monroe Doctrine and, although it repeats many now-familiar charges, it will probably remain for some time the most devastating analysis of that document. The author discusses its entire history down to the present day, pointing out that even when it was announced more than a century ago "it was concerned only with the security and interests of the country which sponsored it. . . . It is a unilateral, egoistic policy, and exclusively of the United States," and was never intended to protect the Latin American republics. But since that time the Doctrine has been amended, there have been new interpretations and applications of it, all for the purpose of helping to justify "either the action or inaction of the United States in each emergency." Thus, today "the Monroe Doctrine is dead . . . Its spirit no longer has any place in the world of today. Its body has been destroyed by the alterations and abuses it suffered at the hands of Monroe's successors." Mr. Nerval, whose real name is Raúl Diez de Medina and who was once connected with the Bolivian Legation in Washington, makes a number of suggestions for a new Pan-American policy, and adds that even the fine-sounding phrases of the New Deal diplomats on the subject "will have to survive many real tests" before Latin Americans cease to be suspicious. There is an index.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN CRISIS.

By Thomas A. Bailey. The Stanford University Press \$3 5¹/₂ x 8; 353 pp. Stanford University

This is a study of Japanese-American relations during the critical years from 1905 to 1909. During the latter half of the Nineteenth Century, according to Dr. Bailey, the United States had evidenced an almost parental pride in transforming her Far Eastern protégé. But following the Russo-Japanese War, with the emergence of Japan as a world power, these friendly relations were dispelled by a feeling of jealousy, suspicion and fear, with the result that the friction between Americans and their Japanese immigrant neighbors on the Pacific Coast was rapidly aggravated, and a series of racial crises arose that came near, on several occasions, to precipitating war. The purpose of this book is to examine critically the causes, course, and results of these developments. There is a bibliography and also an index.

A SHORTER HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

By Hilaire Belloc. The Macmillan Company \$3 5% x 8¾; 675 pp. New York

Mr. Belloc's history covers the period from the invasions of Julius Caesar in 55 B.C. to the present day. He says that "the prime essential to be grasped in the story of England is the Roman foundation of our society," and he therefore allots much space to the Roman period, believing that most historians have treated it scantily and failed to realize its importance. The period from 1900 to 1934 he sketches very briefly. The Irish Famine he calls "the central mark of the English Nineteenth Century, wherein it forms a turning point," and he devotes much space to it, adding that its effects "on the internal politics of England is, so far as the history of England is concerned, the most important of all." He adds that the House of Commons "as a seat of government is dead. Its death lies at the door of the Irish: of the Irish as they became after the Great Famine had done its work upon the Irish soul." The book, like nearly all of Mr. Belloc's writings on history, is not always reliable as to facts, and is full of Catholic prejudice. There are a number of maps and an index.

THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

By Grant Foreman.

The University of Oklahoma Press \$4 61/8 x 91/4; 455 pp. Norman, Oklahoma In 1830 about 60,000 Indians, comprising the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole tribes, were driven from the Southern States. They had developed a culture and form of government far superior to that of any other Indian tribes and therefore came to be known as the Five Civilized Tribes. But their constant progress brought only increasing oppression from the white man, and they were forced to flee, settling finally, after tragic and disease-ridden wanderings, in the Territory which is now the State of Oklahoma. In this volume Dr. Foreman discusses "the rehabilitation and reconstruction of these immigrants after the demoralization and impoverishment caused by their forcible removal," from 1830 to the beginning of the Civil War. He shows that this "rehabilitation and reconstruction" by the five tribes was amazing. In spite of interference by the government and the monstrous persecution of the whites, they soon achieved

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY



a remarkably high form of communal life, with excellent public schools, farms and factories. Missionaries helped, but, as the author points out, "this achievement was made possible primarily by the intelligence, character and fortitude of the Indians." Little is known of this interesting chapter in American history, and Dr. Foreman's painstaking and thorough efforts constitute a valuable contribution. There are several illustrations and an index.

THE STORY OF AMERICAN DISSENT.

By John M. Mecklin. Harcourt, Brace & Company New York \$3.50 5¾ x 8¾; 381 pp. This is an excellent historical survey and discussion of the dissenting religious groups in America, chiefly the Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, from their earliest beginnings as persecuted and despised minorities to the present day when "These churches present . . . the tragic spectacle of great organizations with wealth and members and responsibilities, but without great living traditions, without any real insight into modern life and no great consuming enthusiasms." Mr. Mecklin rejects the idea that American dissent may be traced back to John Wyclif and the Lollards, and shows

that the movement was peculiar to Virginia, Massachusetts and other States. The frontier, he continues, was the chief factor which brought about "the triumph of the dissenting-revivalistic form of Protestantism in America." He concludes that the spirit which animated the origin of these groups is dead, partly because in America "ultimate social issues are no longer approached from the point of view of religion." And as for "The Legacy of Dissent in America," Mr. Mecklin says, "It perpetuated an outworn and impossible supernaturalism that still lingers to plague the religious leader and educator . ." The whole subject is a formidable one, but the author has dealt with it ably and has given us a very readable work. There is an index.

THE CAMBRIDGE SHORTER HISTORY OF INDIA.

By J. Allan, Sir T. Wolseley Haig & H. H. Dodwell. The Macmillan Company \$4 ⁻ 5¹/₄ x 8; 970 pp. New York

There are few one-volume political histories of India, and this is easily the most satisfactory. It is *Continued on page vi*

The first book frankly facing relationships not even supposed to exist:

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