

*History of South America* (Cleveland, Central Publishing House, 1913; 583 pp.), by W. F. Griewe, is the queerest publication about that continent which has appeared in many a day. It includes "Accounts of the Empire of the Chinese Incas, the Japanese Ancient Peruvians, the African Tribes, the Malay Aborigines," and of what is alleged to have occurred all the way from "Primitive South America of 3000 years, of which there are very complete and convincing records" (!), down to the year of imprint. In his preface the author observes that the material from which to gain information about the subject is "voluminous," (*sic*) and that "each country has its own historians." These statements, however, are not quite so surprising as are the contents of the book itself.

*Cuba No Puede Invocarse en Testimonio del Imperialismo Norteamericano* is the title of an address delivered by Dr. Raúl de Cárdenas at a session of the American Institute of International Law held at Havana in January 1917. Its purpose is to refute assertions to the effect that the United States, while pretending to uphold the independence of Cuba, actually fomented revolution there in order to replace Spanish control by its own. The historical evidence adduced is quite sufficient to prove that, despite the passing fears of American statesmen about British or French designs on the island, and the futile efforts of American slaveholders to secure its acquisition as a State of the Union, "Cuba cannot be invoked in testimony of North American imperialism."

Fearful, apparently, lest an innocent public of English readers might be inclined to disparage their own country, because of the fulsome praise bestowed by certain accounts on the second largest republic in South America, J. A. Hammerton decided that, in his book about *The Real Argentine* (New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1915; xiv, 453 pp.), he would veer to the opposite extreme, singling out instead the unpleasant things for mention. Had he been somewhat less nationally self-complacent, and a little more disposed to admit that even London, in normal times, has features about its social life which suggest elimination on behalf of the general welfare, he might not have been so minutely censorious about Buenos Ayres, the "splendid city of sham" and the Argentinos. Like most writers who prefix "real" and "true" to the titles of their screeds, he is apt to confound muck-raking with reality and truth. Apart from these defects, and a certain superciliousness of attitude, the reminiscences furnished of a sojourn in Argentina and Uruguay are quite entertaining. The illustrations are handsome.

Easily the best historical account of the relations between Great Britain and the United States with reference to Central America is *Anglo-American Isthmian Diplomacy 1815-1915*. (Washington, American Historical Association, 1916; xii, 356 pp.), by Mary Wilhelmine Williams. That it was awarded the Justin Winsor Prize in American History for 1914 indicates its intrinsic merit. Based upon documentary material, especially that in the Public Record Office at London, it describes, not negotiations on canal projects as the title might suggest, but the entire course of diplomatic activities relating to Central America at large. Its center of interest, naturally, is the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and so long as attention is directed thither the exposition in the main is sound and convincing. But when the author attempts to deal with the situation between 1898 and 1915 the text falls into a sort of anti-climax. Her assertion that the period is "too recent for a satisfactory treatment" (page viii) is no extenuation, and her views about it betray an insufficiency of knowledge.

*Thirty Years with the Mexicans: In Peace and Revolution* (New York, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1917; 285 pp.), by Alden Buell Case, contains the impressions of an American missionary derived from a close study of parts of northern Mexico, his views of what has been responsible for the backwardness of the country, and his recommendations for its betterment. In the opinion of Mr. Case, the principal factor to accomplish the needed transformation is "an invasion of Christian [*i. e.* Protestant] influence." Apart from the seemingly inevitable bias of the missionary, and certain errors in statement (e. g. pages 102, 195, 196, 212, 229), the book affords an accurate, thoughtful, sympathetic description of Mexican life and character.

Among the numerous works that W. H. Koebel has written on the southern countries of the New World, *The South Americans* (New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1915; vii, 366 pp.) is not the best. The title would suggest a description of social conditions. Some of the opening chapters do deal with that theme; but the majority of them provide little more than the stereotyped data found in a good encyclopedia and have no bearing whatever on the specific subject. The student or general reader who wants information about the people of South America in their distinctively social aspects will not derive much satisfaction from a perusal of Mr. Koebel's casual notes and comments. His characterization of the "Monroe doctrine," as "one of the most curious proclamations, policies, theories or, indeed, whatever it may be called" (page 73), is not unbefitting the content of the present work in its relation to the heading on the title-page.