Review

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History of the Portuguese in Bengal.— J. J. A. Campos. Calcutta and London : Butterworth & Co. 1919. *Rs.* 6. 8.

The story of the settlements of the Portuguese in Bengal, of their struggles and prosperity in the latter part of the sixteenth century, and their gradual decline under the combined effects of Spanish sovereignty, foreign competition and the hostility of the Emperor Shah Jahan, forms an important and obscure chapter in the record of Portuguese power in the East, and has been treated only in a perfunctory manner in the various well-known works which deal with that subject. In this volume the whole narrative has for the first time been related. Mr. Campos has devoted much research to the subject, and has not relied only on the Portuguese authorities, but has brought together information from Oriental sources and the works of European travellers, not neglecting the numerous reports and letters of the Jesuit Fathers and other Catholic missionaries, many of which have been made available during the past few years. The result is a full and trustworthy account of the rise and fall of Portuguese influence in Bengal and the neighbouring coasts.

The Bengal settlements were not on the same footing as those in other parts of India, where military possession was taken of certain towns and districts and a regular jurisdiction was exercised by viceroys and governors appointed by the King of Portugal. In Bengal no forts were built and no captains or officials were appointed. The authority of the Sultans of Bengal and afterwards of the Mughal Emperors was recognized in theory although often defied in practice. The ports of Chittagong (sometimes under Bengal, but more often under Aracan) and of Satgaon and its successor Hooghly on the Hooghly branch of the Ganges became during the sixteenth century the centres of a valuable and lucrative trade, profitable not only to the Portuguese but also to the rulers themselves. Their immunity for so long was doubtless due to this cause, and even after Shah Jahan's siege and capture of Hooghly in 1633 Mr. Campos has shown that the Portuguese were almost at once permitted again to settle not only at Hooghly but also at Pipli and Balasore.

In addition to the legitimate traders a number of Portuguese adventurers who can hardly be described except as pirates, established themselves on the islands and coasts of the Ganges Delta. Of their doings Mr. Campos gives a full account in chap. xiv. Their final fall dates from the conquest of Chittagong by Aurangzeb in 1665. The further history of the scattered Portuguese communities in Bengal through the eighteenth century and up to the present day is dealt with in chap. xv.

There are a few mistakes in the references, of which the following may be pointed out : p. 27, note—the reference to De Barros is to Dec. III. Bk. II. (not I.), chap. 3 (p. 32 f. of the Edn. of 1563) ; p. 58—the date of Fitch's visit should be 1586, not 1686.

M. L. D.

Survey of India : General Report, 1917-18.— Calcutta. 1919.

The General Report of the Survey of India for 1917-18 has recently come to hand, and a perusal of it shows that notwithstanding the depletion of officers through the war who were employed on surveying in the various fields of operation in the East, a large amount of important work was carried out by the department.

Considerable advance was made with the topographical surveys in the Northern, Southern and Eastern circles into which the country has been