Santo Domingo by Otto Schoenrich

Review by: L. E. E.

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Lord Cranworth, one of the early settlers in British East Africa, writes a preface in which he pays tribute to the great value of the 25th Fusiliers as a fighting unit in upholding white prestige at a time when most of the European troops had been withdrawn.

F. R. C.

AMERICA

Santo Domingo.— Otto Schoenrich. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1918. *Illustrated*. \$3.00.

The author of this survey of the fate of one of Spain's oldest colonies in the New World has had more than a passing acquaintance with the Caribbean. It will be remembered that Judge Schoenrich officiated for several years in Porto Rico, subsequently spending a term in Nicaragua as one of the American officials of the Mixed Claims Commission. He writes in a colloquial style, the volume setting out to give a résumé of the history of the island that was once an Arawak stronghold, was famous for three centuries as Española, and was later divided by an arbitrary line into Santo Domingo and Haiti.

The historical sketch begins with the landing of Columbus and comes down to the military occupation of the republic by United States forces in 1916, a condition still existent. Events occurring since the book was written render premature, to say the least, the author's statement that "absolute order and security" were thus established, but this is not the only sentence showing that Judge Schoenrich was unable to avoid the temptation of special pleading. He foresees the possibility of "outright annexation" by the United States, but thinks that a protectorate would suit Americans better, since such a status would "carry the advantages of annexation without its responsibilities." It does not seem to have occurred seriously to him that Dominicans could or should be masters in their own house.

Chapters follow upon the area and boundaries of Haiti and Santo Domingo, the topography and climate, geological conditions, flora and fauna—inadequately treated—the racial characteristics of the inhabitants, religion, education, literature (practically merely a list of existing newspapers), transport systems, a survey of principal towns, debts and finance, law and justice, and governmental forms prior to American intervention.

The section dealing with the fate of the bones of Columbus is a compilation of the evidence upon the subject which, although not new, has the merit of being less perfunctory than many other parts of the book.

As a whole the volume suffers from the flaws of most works whose object is, at bottom, that of making out a case, and, while Judge Schoenrich is fortunate in possessing a more facile style than that displayed by Dr. Munro in his book on Central America, lately reviewed in the *Journal*, the fact that both publications belong to the order of propaganda does much to destroy their interest for the student or the general reader.

L. E. E.

POLAR REGIONS

With the "Aurora" in the Antarctic, 1911-1914.—John King Davis. London: Andrew Melrose, Ltd. Not dated [1919]. Pp. xxii., 184. *Plates*. 18s. *net*.

Although the narrative of the Australian Antarctic Expedition has been set forth in the two stately volumes of 'The Home of the Blizzard' by the leader Sir Douglas Mawson, there was room for this modest little book by the able navigator who commanded the ship of the Expedition. So far as exploration is concerned, leaving scientific research out of sight for a moment, there were