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The section of Mundy's journal here given covers the period between November 1634 and December 1638, and is chiefly occupied with his voyage to India and China in the employment of Courteen's Association, which had just been founded in competition with the East India Company. The fleet, which was commanded by the famous John Weddell, sailed in April 1636. Visits were paid to Goa, to Bhatkal and other points on the Malabar Coast, and to Achin; but the goal of the adventurers was Macao, whence it was hoped to open up trade with Canton. The jealous Portuguese, however, threw every possible obstacle in Weddell's path, and when he, losing patience, pushed boldly into the Canton River, the Chinese showed themselves equally unwilling to have any dealings with this fresh set of foreign barbarians. Remonstrances, and even cannon-shot, having failed to stop the new-comers, the Chinese officials temporized. Three of the English merchants were allowed to go up to Canton and buy goods. There, however, they found themselves virtually prisoners, while a determined attempt was made to burn the English fleet by means of fireships. This was frustrated; but Weddell deemed it best to go back to Macao, where after some delay he was joined by his three merchants, who had been allowed to quit Canton with their purchases, on an undertaking never to return. This was the first occasion on which English traders had actually got into China, though one of the East India Company's ships had been at Macao two years earlier. Mundy's account of their experiences is therefore of the greatest interest. Weddell's fleet returned to Achin, and thence our traveller departed for England. On the way home his vessel called at Mauritius, Madagascar, and St. Helena, and at all three places he made copious notes of his observations.

The perusal of these two volumes confirms the impression that Mundy's journal is one of the most valuable of extant narratives of seventeenth-century travellers in the East. A close and accurate observer, he made a point of committing his impressions at once to paper, and the result is an extraordinary mass of information unspoilt by subsequent revision. Naturally he paid special attention to matters of trade; but he also noted everything of interest concerning the people he met, the buildings he saw, and even the strange beasts and fishes he came across. The narrative must be read with close attention to be fully appreciated; but perhaps enough has been said to show what a debt of gratitude is due to the Hakluyt Society and to the editor for the good work they are doing in making available this fascinating record. W. F.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

On the Handling of Steamers during Hurricanes on the East Coast of Queensland.— Francis J. Bayldon, Lieut. R.N.R., Master Mariner. Sydney: Angus & Robertson, Ltd. 1913.

There is probably no more dangerous coast than that dealt with in this pamphlet, especially during the cyclone period of the summer months. The author is a master mariner of experience in these waters, and can thus write from personal knowledge. He has evidently read up the subject well, and from the best authorities, combined with his own experience, he is able to give sound advice to navigators in these treacherous waters. His notes refer to the cyclonic storms of the summer, not of other seasons, and apply only to steamships on the usual course inside the Great Barrier Reef. All who undertake this hazardous voyage would do well to read the twenty-two pages of this pamphlet and study the diagrams of the cyclones and direction of winds with which it is illustrated. Apart from its value to the navigator, we have here a

most instructive and practical lesson in physical geography and the laws of storms, which lecturers in geography would consult with profit.

E. A. R.

The Future of the Kanaka.— **Edward Jacomb.** London : P. S. King & Son, Ltd. 1919. Crown 8vo. Pp. 222.

In a brief introduction to this somewhat didactic survey of his subject the author explains that, before resigning himself to the bodily risks of war service, he believed he had acquired certain information about the Pacific in general, and the islanders of the New Hebrides in particular, which it was desirable should not be lost in the event of his death. He therefore, in 1917, wrote his argument down ; and he now gives it the world as it is, because "now that the war is over its publication has become a matter of urgency."

The facts he relates concerning the situation of the Melanesian autochthones in the New Hebrides are melancholy enough, yet not overdrawn. Though many of them are not new, one puts the book down with a sigh and a sense of shame for the part that errant white men have played in bringing the natives to their present pass. More pleasing are the pages in which the author describes the aims and methods of the several religious Missions established in the Group. This he does with clearness and impartiality ; but an atmosphere of bias and pessimism seems to pervade his strictures on the Government he once served. For the Franco-British joint control of the New Hebrides Mr. Jacomb finds no word of favour. In this opinion he is by no means singular, since every one who knows the Pacific admits the thorny and difficult nature of the issue upon whose ultimate solution the future of the islanders (whom the author repeatedly designates by the solecism "Kanaka race") must absolutely depend. When he ventures eastward of the Condominium he is on less sure ground, and commits himself to sundry statements that he might have amended, had he seen fit to revise his manuscript after coming within touch of reliable references. Perhaps the most surprising of these slips is his numbering Easter Island in the category of those which "have no aboriginal population of their own," but "are now inhabited by whites" (p. 21)! The general trend of the book is to leave the reader pondering over the blunders and misdeeds of a disagreeable past, the deficiencies of a regrettable present, and a depressing prospect of what the future may bring forth for the Melanesian.

B. G. C.

Australia Unlimited.— **E. J. Brady.** Melbourne : George Robertson. 1920. *Illustrations.* 42s. net.

It is possible that the introduction to this work may not predispose the reader toward the rest of it ; still, a detailed recital (in the first person) of the writer's qualifications for his task may not be altogether amiss. And there is no need either to deny or to decry the extraordinary affection (for it is extraordinary) which the land of Australia inspires in her children, any more than it is possible to withstand the fascination which the same country, equipped with no specially high standard of scenic beauty as that is judged elsewhere, nevertheless exercises upon the visitor. When therefore we read the statement that Australia is the "freest, richest, happiest land on earth," we are prepared to absolve the writer of deliberate exaggeration, and to accompany him willingly through his interesting summary of the early history of the continent, his detailed descriptions of the Commonwealth and of each state and territory, and his studies of certain special subjects, in which outstanding personalities are largely dealt with. These last may not greatly interest the

2 K