WILEY

Review: The French West Indies

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BOLIVIA.

'La Bolivie.' By William van Brabant. Paris: J. Lebègue et Cie. [1908.] 10 *fr.*

The author deals with Bolivia from many points of view. The historical, ethnographical, and geographical sections only occupy about sixty pages in a book which contains nearly five hundred. The greater part of the work is devoted to information intended to appeal to settlers, and consists of detailed accounts of the economic development of the country and the regulations relating to concessions and the status of immigrants.

There is a valuable description of the plants grown in Bolivia which are of use in medicine.

Means of communication are well described, though the maps given are confused and hard to follow. At present the most important railway runs to Antofagasta, and the journey takes three days for goods traffic. A line now being built from La Paz to Arica will bring the former town within about twelve hours of the coast. The completion of the connections with the Argentine will also be helpful to trade in the near future. River navigation on the tributaries of the Amazon and on the Paraguay and Pilcomayo exists, but there is much overland transit before the navigable portion of the rivers can be reached. The author rightly emphasizes the importance of improvements in means of communication, without which the magnificent natural resources of an inland region like Bolivia cannot be developed.

THE FRENCH WEST INDIES.

'Les Petites Antilles.' By P. Chemin Dupontès. Paris: E. Guilmoto. 1909. 7.50 *fr.*

The author gives a very interesting account of the geography of these islands and their economic condition. The present distress, which is especially noticeable in the French Antilles, is attributed to the lack of interest shown in these colonies by France. It is pointed out that improved administration, and experiments in the introduction of varied products, such as cocoa, coffee, tobacco, fruit, and cotton, for which the soil and climate of most of the islands are suitable, would go far to remedy the economic disadvantages under which they now labour. Illustrations are drawn from the improved financial condition of the British West Indies, and an appeal made to the French Government to take the matter in hand.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

GEOMORPHOLOGY.

'The Face of the Earth.' By Prof. Eduard Suess. Translated by Hertha B. C. Sollas, under the direction of Prof. W. J. Sollas. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1908. 18s. *net.*

The concluding volume of Prof. Suess's great work, of which this is the first part, is devoted to the consideration of the structural features of the continents, the plan of the trend-lines traced by Nature on the face of the Earth. He places us in imagination before the map of Eurasia and proceeds to expound the tectonics of that portion of the world. The great chains of folded mountains which hang like festoons across Asia from Japan to the Urals and the Caucasus are the subject of his discourse. To the north-west of Lake Baikal lies a semicircular area of the Siberian plains, composed of very ancient rocks eroded into a tableland. This is the "vertex," or forehead of Asia, a district which has been little disturbed or folded since early Palæozoic time, and around it sweep the great arcs of folded ranges from Manchuria through the Gobi Desert and the Tian Shan to the Ser Darya and the mountains of Armenia. Lake Baikal, at the south-east edge of this plateau, is situated in a region of subsidence, cut up by faults. Another belt of