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narratives of travel on the west coast of Africa, written by an employé of two successive French companies operating in Senegal, whose name has hitherto been practically unknown to historians. This neglect is to be laid to the charge of the French Dominican J. B. Labat, the compiler of several well-known descriptions of West Africa based on the narratives of travellers, who has been known to have been none too scrupulously careful in the use of his material, though the extent of the liberties which he permitted himself to take therewith has only lately been brought to light by a fortunate discovery by the editor of the work now before us.

M. Cultru, who has been known for some time as a keen student of the history of the French West African Colonies, lighted a few years on two MS. documents preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, one of which, in a late seventeenth-century handwriting, contained the first part of a narrative entitled 'Premier voyage du Sieur La Courbe au Sénégal en 1685,' the other including André Brue's Journal during the Arguin Expedition of 1723. On examination it proved that while the latter was reproduced in the first volume of Labat's 'Relation de l'Afrique Occidentale,' the basis of the four succeeding volumes was the narrative of La Courbe then for the first time brought to notice, and this though all the journeys therein described were assigned by Labat to Brue, under dates altered to fit in with the facts of Brue's career. Whole passages, M. Cultru shows, were embodied verbally in Labat's work. What was his precise motive in thus glorifying his hero at the expense of another cannot now be guessed, but the result has been to perpetuate an injustice done to La Courbe, who seems to have been a man of some culture and of an inquiring mind, besides possessing a certain descriptive faculty which we have now no reason to attribute to Brue. A later find brought to light the end of La Courbe's narrative, with a gap of sixteen pages only between it and the former section.

In this narrative we have a document of great importance for the early history of Senegal and for a knowledge of the ethnological relations of the peoples of that region in the period in question. M. Cultru supplies an introduction setting forth, in addition to the facts above mentioned, the chief events in early French enterprise in this part of the world, and such details of La Courbe's career and West African experiences as he has been able to glean by careful search. The whole forms a volume of much interest and value.

E. H.

AMERICA.

Canada and Newfoundland.— H. M. Ami. Vol. I of North America in Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel (New Issue). London : Edward Stanford. 1915. Pp. xxviii., 1069. *Maps and Illustrations.* 15s. net.

The appearance of this book is very welcome, for a "revised and extended" edition of Dr. Dawson's volume was necessitated by the advance of our knowledge in many respects, by the changes effected by man over much of the area, and by the increased knowledge of the regions treated, since the publication of the first edition in 1897.

We have now a store of the most recent facts regarding the present conditions in the Dominion and the Colony. The book is indeed a compendium of information which should be at the disposal of all who study the region ; we do not praise it unduly if we say it must be considered as indispensable, for it

is packed with facts, it deals with all aspects of the geography, and it embodies much that it would be difficult or impossible for a student on this side of the Atlantic to obtain even with the aid of the long Bibliography appended to the volume; moreover, study is facilitated by many maps, nearly 200 illustrations, and a full, though not quite complete, index.

Yet we must confess to some disappointment, for the book has been brought up to date in regard to its facts, but the spirit of the modern study of geography does not animate it. To a large extent it is a collection of more or less unrelated details which might be, but are not, formed into an organic whole; the facts are arranged into categories but not inter-related; the regions are described but seldom explained. We regret the omission of any contoured map except one measuring about 6 in. $\times$ 3 in., and also the absence of any general geological maps.

In general we find the book unusually accurate and trustworthy, but we must prescribe Chapter VI. of Sir John Murray's book 'The Ocean' as an antidote to the statements on p. 7 regarding the "dominant cause" of the direction of ocean currents. It is obviously a misprint which asserts that "the air rises 10° C. for every 400 feet it descends" (p. 676), and there is more than one statement so ill-expressed as to cause misunderstanding at a first reading.

Messrs. Stanford are doing a service in re-issuing this volume of their "Compendium," but we hope that a future issue may show a development from the *compendium* stage, and provide us with a book in which the geographical point of view is preserved and a unity is evolved.

J. F. U.

Mineral Resources of Minas Geraes (Brazil).— Albert F. Calvert. London: E. & F. N. Spon. 1915. Pp. xvi. and 100. *Maps, Sections and Illustrations.* 6s. net.

Mr. Calvert has extended the list of his mining works by an excursion into a new country; and this is probably the most complete description of the mineral wealth of Minas, being compiled largely from reports by experts on the spot. The illustrations are numerous, but the value of the work would have been much enhanced by the addition of an index and of a systematic bibliography instead of mere references in the text of the book.

GENERAL.

Early Engraving and Engravers in England (1545-1695). A Critical and Historical Essay.—(Sir) Sidney Colvin. London: British Museum, etc. 1905. Large folio. Pp. 170 and letterpress with each plate. *Photogravure and other Facsimiles.* 105s. net.

Through the liberality of the Trustees of the British Museum the Society's library has become the fortunate possessor of a copy of this sumptuous work, which, apart from its general interest for the history of copper-plate engraving in this country, has a distinct value to the student of the history of British geography and cartography. In modern times map-making has become to such an extent a thing of mere practical utility that its connection with engraving as an art is by no means close. But in the early days it was otherwise, and in the period treated of in this volume, especially the earlier half of it, maps played a quite appreciable part among the subjects dealt with even by the most accomplished exponents of the art; while it is the subsidiary