Review

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Historical Geography of Britain and the British Empire. Book I.— **Thomas Franklin, A.C.P., A.R.S.G.S.** Edinburgh: W. & A. K. Johnston, Ltd. [1920.] *Price 2s. net.*

This first volume of Mr. Franklin's 'Historical Geography of the British Empire' deals with the history of the British Isles and the British Empire down to 1815; the second volume is to continue the story to the present time. With 260 pages, including twenty maps, it is at two shillings a very cheap book, for its narrative is clear and readable and the matter well arranged. In general the author's method has been to describe the geography and then to sketch the history, but his treatment is fuller with the later centuries, and there is more interweaving of geographical considerations with the historical narrative when he deals with British expansion. The amount of attention given to the growth of the Empire, and particularly to India, is a special feature of the book, and probably the reason for taking so late a date as 1815 as the line of division between the two volumes, which seems rather to overcrowd the first volume. The account of the regulation of colonial trade on p. 185 is too brief for its purpose. A further explanation of the old colonial system ought to have been given. On p. 185, too, 1521 is clearly a misprint. On the whole the book is well done, and will be very useful for the school teaching of the history of the British Empire.

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The Expansion of the Anglo-Saxon Nations.— Edited by **H. Clive Barnard, M.A., B.Litt.** London: A. & C. Black. 1920. *Price 7s. 6d. net.*

In this book the story of the British Empire is told from the point of view of its various members, each of the chapters on the history of the Dominions being contributed by a native of the country described. The idea is a good one, both because the nature of colonial history is probably better understood in the colonies than in the mother country, and because the emphasis naturally falls on the national development of each colony rather than on the imperial policy, and a fresh point of view is given to the English reader. The book also includes a sketch of the history of the United States and of British India, and thus gives a comprehensive account of the new nations of Anglo-Saxon origin that have sprung up in divers parts of the world, and of the general character of British oversea expansion. On the whole the work is well done, and the book will be very useful for the upper forms of schools. A readable text-book of our imperial history, giving a brief account too of American development, has long been much needed. But there is some lack of proportion in the treatment, for Canada receives more space than the United States, and, to take a smaller example, four pages are devoted to the reasons why Newfoundland has not joined the Dominion, and not as many lines to the similar case of New Zealand and the Commonwealth. Perhaps this accounts for the Canadian chapter appearing the best. That on the United States is too summary on the more recent history of the country, and the Australian chapter rather ignores the interesting political development of some of the Australian colonies. It seems a pity, too, that the history of the smaller possessions could not have been worked into its place in the general narrative instead of being arranged catalogue fashion at the end. On the last page the editor seems to ignore the fact that British New Guinea has long been administered by the Commonwealth. The book contains many useful maps, a chronological table, and other tables (from one of which we learn that an American has little chance of becoming President of the United States unless he is either a lawyer or an "educator"), a bibliography, and an index. It is cheap, and should be very useful.

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