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AMERICA

Anglo-American Isthmian Diplomacy, 1815-1915.— Mary Wilhelmina Williams.
Washington: American Historical Association. 1916.

British interests in Central America were created during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in the days of the struggle against Spanish monopoly, of buccaneering and of West Indian colonization. These interests were centred in three regions—the Belize settlement, the Bay Islands, and the Mosquito Shore. American interests in Central America grew with trans-continental expansion and the acquisition of California, after they had been expressed in a general way by the Monroe Doctrine. Mutual suspicion and a collision of interests were easy. The centre of the matter was the control of the trans-isthmian routes, which neither Great Britain nor the United States wished to see in the hands of the other. A compromise was reached in the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850, which aimed at securing the neutrality of any inter-oceanic canal which might be constructed. This Treaty was viewed with increasing dissatisfaction in the United States, and was finally modified (1901) by the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which provided that a canal might be constructed under the auspices of the United States Government, the general principle of neutralization being maintained. Dr. Williams' book gives a full account, largely from unpublished sources, of the negotiations which led to the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty and of the difficulties which followed in the decade 1850-60, and concludes with a sketch of the policy which led to the modification of the Treaty, and with a very useful *résumé* of the whole matter. The book is somewhat dry and detailed in treatment, but its full account of the diplomacy of the years following the negotiation of the Treaty of 1850 is a valuable addition to the history of the subject.

E. A. B.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

Pastels from the Pacific.— Frank Lenwood. Oxford University Press.
1917. *Map and Illustrations.* 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Lenwood, of the London Missionary Society, made a tour in the western Pacific in the interests of missions, and as a result of his observation and industry we are presented with these 'Pastels.' The author disarms criticism by a modest introduction, and we approach his book prejudiced in his favour. He has nothing new to say of Samoan ceremonies and customs, nor anything unknown to reveal about Papuan life, but he writes with such freshness and vigour that one finds renewed interest in the islands of the sea. His descriptions of Lifu and his pen-picture of the Bay of Chepenhe deserve special mention, but the real value of the book is in its tributes to men who are working faithfully and quietly in helping to civilize and christianize the natives. Such, for example, are Mr. Hadfield and his wife, who at Lifu have ministered for thirty-eight years and have won both love and trust of the Lifuans. The volume contains a map of the south-west Pacific, besides many beautiful illustrations and a carefully compiled index.

W. P.

GENERAL

Histoire de la Science Nautique Portugaise : Résumé.— Joaquim Bensaude.
Genève: Imprimerie A. Kundig. 1917.

In this brochure Senhor Bensaude has summed up the results of his studies on the development of nautical science which are already familiar to members of this Society from the lecture on the subject by Sir Clements Markham, printed

in the *Journal* for September 1915. The author feels himself justified by the evidence he has brought together in claiming for the Portuguese navigators of the fifteenth century a practical share in the development of the science which that century witnessed, and this he shows to have been the case not only in actual navigation, but in cartography as well. He has certainly succeeded in proving that the claims put forward in Germany to a priority in teaching the principles of nautical astronomy to the Portuguese explorers do not rest on a secure foundation, and that these principles had been established by a series of astronomers working in the Peninsula and in Provence long before the time of Regiomontanus, whose 'Ephemerides' (1474) have been proclaimed as the first work throwing a true light on this subject. He lays especial stress on the consecutive labours of a number of Jewish astronomers working through the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, leading up to and culminating in the work of Abraham Zacuto (1473-78), and on the patient investigations carried out by the naval academy of Sagres established by Prince Henry the Navigator in 1416. The author has already dealt with this subject in his work on nautical astronomy published in 1912.

One of the pieces of evidence quoted in support of the early observations by Portuguese navigators is the passage in Cadamosto's narrative in which reference is made to the position of the Pole Star close to the horizon, and at the same time to the appearance of a constellation (of which a diagram is given) composed of six stars in the shape of a cross (no doubt the Southern Cross) on the southern horizon. The voyage under the auspices of Prince Henry was made in the year 1456, and the observation was made at the mouth of the Gambia about lat. 14° N. From this it would appear that Senhor Bensaude accepts Cadamosto as a truthful narrator and does not countenance the theory lately advocated by E. de Vasconcellos and others that he was an impostor. Perhaps this very statement may be held to be evidence that Cadamosto was telling the truth, for such an observation, a valuable one in 1456, would have lost all interest by 1507, when the journey was first published, and these facts had become familiar to navigators.

Senhor Bensaude attributes the ignorance which has prevailed on these points mainly to the introduction of the Inquisition and the consequent suppression of the work of the Jewish astronomers. He maintains that the work of De Barros on geography, which has disappeared, was destroyed by the Jesuits of Louvain, and points to a passage in the 'Decadas' in which that great historian claims for the Portuguese the credit of first employing the new nautical science, and states that he has dealt fully with this subject in the first books of his 'Geography.' It is further pointed out that while Castanheda, D. de Goes, and Osorio, whose works were published while the Inquisition was in power, keep silence on this subject, Gaspar Correa, whose 'Lendas da India' remained in manuscript till 1858, gives full details and praises the work of Zacuto. It may be added that the reference to Zacuto, or Çacoto, as Correa calls him, occurs in chap. iii. of the published version of his works, in which he describes how D. Manoel I. consulted the astronomer as to the expedition he proposed to send out to find the way to India by the Cape of Good Hope.

It is clear that the work on which Senhor Bensaude is engaged is likely to be of great value when fully elaborated, and it is also evident that it will raise many controversies. He has established what may be called a good *prima facie* case, and one that will demand a careful consideration of the evidence by impartial and qualified investigators.

M. L. D.