Review

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trustworthy record of the Portuguese in Africa with which we are acquainted. If there is to be yet another edition Dr. Theal might give us some account of the Portuguese on the Guinea Coast and in Angola and Abyssinia. Then the record would be complete. F. R. C.

A History of South Africa.— Dorothea Fairbridge. Oxford University Press. 1918. Pp. xvi. and 319. *Illustrations.* 3s. 6d. net.

This sketch of South African history should prove useful. It is, apparently, intended for the special benefit of the young, and its style is didactic and "improving." But it is written with knowledge and with clearness. About half the volume deals with the period of Dutch rule at the Cape, and in this part of the story there is evidence of considerable research. The modern period, rightly dated from the discovery of the diamond fields, which "marked the passing of the old order of things," is scarcely so carefully treated, is compressed into some sixty pages, and the record ends with the establishment of the Union.

The author quotes from a good many documents, but fails to give the references for which the student looks, and the index is elementary. The illustrations are numerous and interesting. F. R. C.

AMERICA

Chile.— Published by the Chilean Government. Santiago. 1915.

This handbook contains information on the country, its people, and their industries, commerce, and social organization. The chapters on geography, climate, fauna, and flora, etc., are necessarily very brief and concise, the animals and trees enumerated being those which are most useful to man. With a population of 3,593,000 inhabitants over an area of 292,340 square miles the density is only 12.3 per mile, which is nevertheless the greatest on the South American continent. Immigrants are few, and the numbers have diminished owing to the regulations framed to exclude undesirable persons: in 1913 only 1142 immigrants were admitted. Nitrate and its by-product iodine were exported in 1913 to the value of £23,325,000, being 82 per cent. of the value of the total exports. The copper industry has increased of late, and the value exported in 1913 was £2,225,000, while borax accounted for £419,000. Agricultural products are sent to the barren nitrate country, and the exports go chiefly to other South American countries. Great Britain takes the first place among importing countries, supplying fully 33 per cent. out of the total £24,714,000. The agricultural land may be estimated at about 44 per cent. of the whole, but this whole includes the Magellanic territory, not suitable for crops. The land in the north and much of it in the central zone is artificially irrigated. Cereals are raised in excess of the home consumption, and beans are an important crop. Good wines are produced. The book also contains short accounts of railways, banks, telegraphs, insurance, etc., and is well illustrated.

POLAR REGIONS

Expédition Isachsen au Spitsberg 1909-10. Résultats scientifiques. Christiania: The Academy of Sciences and the Fridtjof Nansen Fund. 1916. 2 vols. *Maps and Illustrations.*

In 1906, under the auspices of the Prince of Monaco, Major (then Captain) Isachsen began a long series of Norwegian expeditions to Spitsbergen, which has continued until last year. In 1909 Norway became responsible for these expeditions, thus entering the field in competition chiefly with Britain and Sweden in the exploration of Spitsbergen. These Norwegian explorers have