

WILEY



Review

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 6 (Jun., 1916), p. 473

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1779251>

Accessed: 10-06-2016 08:34 UTC

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Madagascar his work deserves cordial commendation. It has, too, something of the charm of an old-world book of travel, for in dealing with the people Mr. Sibree wisely depicts them as he knew them for thirty years previous to the French conquest of the island. Of the changes which have occurred since we get but hints (one of these hints, almost a sigh, shows us the French as great road makers). This picture of Malagasy life in the days of Hova supremacy has permanent value. So also have the author's notes on burial customs, some obviously derived from remote sources and of great antiquity. Again the descriptions of the hill villages, surrounded by a series of deep fosses, arrest attention. We hope that the author will give us another book dealing specifically and more fully with the early history of Madagascar and the extent of Arab, Indian, and African influence on the people.

The student may be tantalized by the disjointed manner in which Mr. Sibree presents his information, especially as the index is not as informative as it might be. The average reader is more likely to be content with the stimulating *olla podrida* set before him. The illustrations are excellent, and the maps sufficient for their purpose.

F. R. C.

AMERICA.

The Rubber Industry of the Amazon.— J. F. Woodroffe and Harold Hamel Smith. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 1915. Pp. xlviii., 435. *Illustrations.* 21s. net.

A previous book by Mr. Woodroffe, 'The Upper Reaches of the Amazon,' recording his personal experiences in that region, was noticed in the *Journal* last year (vol. 45, p. 244). When war broke out he had arranged to collaborate with Mr. H. Hamel Smith, the editor of *Tropical Life*, in the production of the present work, which discusses the conditions under which the rubber industry in Brazil is conducted and advocates measures for its further development. Mr. Woodroffe has enlisted, but he placed his notes at Mr. Smith's disposal, and though there are doubtful points which cannot be cleared up in his absence, Mr. Smith has assumed the responsibility of bringing out the book, grafting his own information and conclusions on to the material left in his hands. It is, indeed, his vigorous spirit which dominates the work. The style is diffuse, some of the ideas are rather wild, and generally the book exhibits the defects of a conglomeration of imperfect data. Mr. Smith cheerfully admits all its faults, but argues that it is better to let the book come out and pass through the fires of criticism than to delay publication indefinitely. He believes that he has valuable suggestions to offer on the subject of immigration into Brazil and the relation of the rubber industry to agricultural development generally. As an incentive to discussion the book should serve a useful purpose.

The Real Argentine.— J. A. Hammerton. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 1915. Pp. 453. *Illustrations.* 2 dollars 50 cents.

The many books which have been published about the Argentine Republic in recent years have been more appreciative than critical. In Mr. Hammerton's account of "the real Argentine" criticism outweighs appreciation. The book is less comprehensive than the title would imply, for the bulk of it is concerned with Buenos Aires. Other towns and life in the "Camp" are dealt with rather cursorily. Buenos Aires, however, reflects many of the essential characteristics of Argentine progress. Mr. Hammerton deals with the city very faithfully, and though some may think that his criticisms are marked by a spirit of undue acerbity the book is a useful corrective of extravagant eulogies. Some