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Review

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starting less than thirty years ago and now at the top of the world's output. We can read of the primitive native methods of iron-smelting or of the preparation of salt and saltpetre. We may learn something of the first effects of the war, as that the stoppage of salt imports from Germany and Asiatic Turkey was largely balanced by increases from Egypt, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The subject-matter in general may be dry, but there is a touch of humour under "Mercury," for the occurrence of which metal in India there is no satisfactory evidence :—"Those accounts which do not owe their origin to the accidental breaking of a barometer tube, or perhaps to the escape of mercury from a dispensary, refer . . . to localities which are difficult of access."

These two volumes should find a place in every important reference library.  
H. M. D.

#### AMERICA

**Vagabonding down the Andes.**— **Harry A. Franck.** London: T. Fisher Unwin. [1919.] Pp. xi. and 612. Map and 175 illustrations. 25s. *net*.

This is the English edition of an American book, published in 1917, containing a day to day narrative of the author's experiences and impressions during four years' travels in South America. From previous writings, Mr. Franck is known as a lonely wanderer who has tramped through many lands. Much of the country he traversed in South America would not permit of any other mode of travel. Now and again he made use of trains and river steamers, but long distances in the interior were covered on foot. Starting from the Atlantic coast of Colombia, he made his way up to Bogotá, and from there tramped over the Quindio Pass (11,400 feet) of the Central Cordillera to Quito. After spending some months in Quito, he continued his journey through the Andes to Cuzco, whence a hazardous excursion took him to Machu Picchu, an old stronghold of the Incas, now almost buried in vegetation and seldom visited by travellers, though surveyed a few years ago by the Yale Peruvian Expedition under Prof. Hiram Bingham. Having returned to Cuzco, he pushed through the heart of Bolivia to the borders of Brazil, and finally made his way to Buenos Aires down the Paraguay and Uruguay rivers. He attempted no geographical discoveries, but the record of his peregrinations affords an interesting picture of the less familiar aspects of life and travel in South America. Mingling with the poorer classes of the population, assuming their dress, and generally adopting their ways of living, he gained an intimate knowledge of their characteristics and customs. He is frankly not very favourably impressed with the average South American Indian. Mr. Franck possesses a breezy literary style, combined with a faculty for vivid description, and the story of his experiences makes entertaining reading.

S. C. G.

#### AUSTRALASIA

**Thirty Years in Tropical Australia.**— **Rt. Rev. Gilbert White, D.D.** London: S.P.C.K. [1918.] Pp. viii. and 264. *Maps and Illustrations.* 10s. 6d. *net*.

The thirty years of which Dr. White writes extended from 1885 to 1915. As a young priest he went out from England to North Queensland, and after working there for fifteen years was consecrated as first Bishop of the diocese of Carpentaria. He resigned this charge in 1915 to become Bishop of another newly formed diocese, that of Willochra, in the backblocks of South Australia. Such a record implies a strenuous career and much travelling in remote districts. Long journeys in the interior (including one across Australia from north to

south) and hazardous coastal voyages have provided the bishop with material for a volume of reminiscences which not only makes excellent reading but is distinguished by its shrewd comments on conditions and problems in tropical Australia. Without dwelling on the hard conditions of the life Dr. White gives a vivid impression of the difficulties attending day to day travel in these regions, quite apart from anything in the nature of exploration. On the White Australia question, while sympathizing with the underlying principle, he does not think that the northern parts of Australia can be fully developed by white labour, and is dubious of the wisdom of a "dog in the manger" policy. A colour line might, he thinks, be drawn across the continent without the evil effects which are popularly feared; but he recognizes that public opinion in Australia is opposed to such a plan. An instructive chapter is devoted to aboriginal life. Dr. White disputes the classification which puts the Australian black fellows among the lowest types of humanity, and he finds in their language and customs many suggestions that their former civilization reached a higher standard. Some years ago, in a lecture before the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, he elaborated a proposition that, if the Government were to establish mission stations in the far north, connect them by telephone, and train the natives to report the presence of strangers, any hostile landing would at once be detected, and one of the dangers presented by the great empty spaces of tropical Australia would cease to exist. The adoption of such a scheme, he points out, would have saved the Commonwealth military authorities much anxiety during the earlier stages of the war. A chapter on pearl shelling in Torres Strait is contributed by Lieut. K. O. Mackenzie, whose long acquaintance with the industry as a resident sheller in the Strait has enabled him to furnish much practical information on the subject. S. C. G.

#### GENERAL

**My Reminiscences.**— **Fanny, Lady Blunt.** London: John Murray. 1918. Pp. xviii., 316. *Two portraits.* 15s. net.

This is an entertaining volume of reminiscences by the lady who wrote 'The People of Turkey' over forty years ago. It is redolent of the Turkey of last century. Lady Blunt was born at Therapia in 1840 and spent the early part of her life at Brussa, where her father, Mr. Donald Sandison, was appointed British Consular Agent, and where for a time he was the only foreign representative. On her mother's side she is of mixed Persian and Italian descent, and one of her cousins was Sir Edward Zohrab, who became Under-Secretary of War in Egypt. Her husband had also many family connections with the Near East. His father was British Consul at Smyrna, and he himself held several consular appointments in Turkey before being transferred in 1872 to Salonica, where he remained, first as Consul, then as Consul-General, till 1899. These particulars will suffice to show the range of Lady Blunt's reminiscences. They are mainly in the nature of personal anecdotes, and throw some interesting side-lights on men and politics in Turkey in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Once, when travelling from Salonica to Constantinople on board a Russian ship, she insisted on going ashore with the captain at Mount Athos, and claims to be one of the only two women who ever evaded the vigilance of the monks, the other being Lady Stratford de Redcliffe. In an introduction to the book Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, as one of the naval officers who formerly enjoyed the hospitality and counsel of "Aunt Fanny" at Salonica and was admitted into the circle of her "extraordinary nephews," pays tribute to the long and valuable services of the late Sir John Blunt and Lady Blunt in the Near East. S. C. G.