

WILEY



Review: Colombia

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between the Zambezi and Sabi rivers. Of this region he gives, not geographical details, but vivid pen-pictures of coast and river, mountain and plain. An instructive chapter on flora and fauna is succeeded by several chapters on big-game shooting. These should not be passed over lightly by the non-sportsman; they are not mere hunting yarns, but contain much valuable zoological information. Two chapters are given to ethnology, and one, full of useful hints, to climate and health. The part of the book most open to criticism is that devoted to history. So far as the story of the Portuguese in East Africa is concerned, it need only be said that the narrative might be clearer and fuller. Mr. Maugham is, apparently, unacquainted with Theal's 'Records of South-East Africa,' the one great collection of original documents dealing with the country. It is in his references to pre-Portuguese days that the author is least trustworthy. He makes no reference to Dr. Randall-MacIver's excavations in Rhodesia. On the contrary, having stated that the ruins of the Zimbabwe near Victoria are considered by distinguished authorities to mark the spot upon which "the city of Ophir" was built, he adds, "The question in vain presents itself, at what period of the world's history were these imposing edifices erected?" A little later the author writes of the Portuguese (c. 1600) making a serious mistake in "abandoning" the Cape of Good Hope; which is, at the least, a misleading statement. In a brief sketch of the existing method of government in the region in which he is consul, Mr. Maugham states that there is no language-test for the executive officials. "In the great Portuguese East African province . . . few are the administrative officials possessing even a rudimentary acquaintance with the languages of the large number of natives whose interests they are believed to study, and whose disputes they are appointed to settle." This fact accounts for a great deal that is unsatisfactory in the condition of the province. Though Mr. Maugham applauds the "proper and practical" view of the Portuguese in regarding the negro as a manual labourer and nothing more, and is strong in denunciation of the mission native, he yet recognizes, with some confusion of mind, that the day of intellectual awakening of the native is coming. The book has some excellent photographs, and is a welcome addition to the literature of a little-known region.

F. R. C.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIA.

'The Republic of Colombia.' By F. Loraine Petre. London: Stanford. 1906.
With a Map.

Mr. Petre hopes that it may be found "useful to have, in a convenient form hitherto not available in English, some general information" regarding Colombia. It must needs be so, for this is a country whose character, capacities, and institutions are but little known, whereas this type of general descriptive work, which is not too common in English, is of no small value, even on familiar ground, when as well carried out as in the present case. The book is no doubt written primarily for those who have or seek financial interests in Colombia; but it will serve as a first lesson to the student of the country in almost any aspect. Mr. Petre deals successively with physical features; with the curious journey by steamer on the Magdalena, rail, and most primitive road from Cartagena to Bogota; with the capital itself; with the people, their history and government, the natural resources of their country, and their prospects. Mr. Petre's own travels in Colombia have not broken fresh ground, so it is not as an explorer that he appears in this work, though he gives some indication of the work of others. The book is successfully illustrated with photographs, and has a map on a scale of about 1 : 5,000,000, fairly satisfactory, but not perfectly in agreement with the text in some matters of detail.

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