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'Latin America: its Rise and Progress.' By F. Garcia Calderon. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1913. Pp. 456. *Map and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) This volume of the South American series is in the main a political and economic summary, which adds to the volumes on each country a broad independent view of the conditions and relations of all. It is hardly at all concerned with geographical conditions, and does not seek to apply their consideration to that of human activities. But on one geographical question it is possible to join issues with the writer. The effects of the opening of the Panama canal are inevitably discussed; it is surely overstating the case to assume that this event will "displace the political axis of the world," or to regard the Pacific under existing political conditions as a *mare clausum* whose rule is shared by the United States and Japan. The work next to be noticed would appear to put the matter with calmer judgment.

'A History of South America.' By C. E. Akers. (London: Murray. 1912. (2nd edit.) Pp. xxviii, 716. *Maps and Illustrations*. 21s.) It is a matter of no surprise that, in view of the wide interest in South American affairs, a second edition of this important work should have been called for. A chapter has been added at the end, discussing political and economic developments to date since 1904, when the first edition appeared. In reference to what was written about the volume previously noticed, we read here, by contrast, that the economic effect of the Panama canal will only make itself visible gradually and slowly, and the same will no doubt be true of any political effect which may result.

### AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

#### PAPUA.

'Papua or British New Guinea.' By J. H. P. Murray, Lt.-Governor and Chief Judicial Officer, Papua, with an introduction by Sir William MacGregor, G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.C., LL.D. *With 38 illustrations (a map of Papua)*. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1912. *Price 15s. net.*

After reference to books on New Guinea of quite other kind, such as "Miss Grimshaw's fascinating work 'The New New Guinea' [which] treats, as its name implies, of the recent development of the territory; Dr. Seligmann's learned 'Melanesians of New Guinea' [which] is occupied with the ethnology of a few tribes; and the Rev. M. Chignell's admirable 'Outpost in Papua' [which] is almost entirely confined to a description of life in a single village," Mr. Murray justly claims that having given some of the best years of his life to the administration of the territory, he may add something useful on Papua [*i.e.* *British New Guinea*] as a whole.

He has effected his purpose in fifteen chapters, in which he has brought together, from many sources which his official position put at his disposal, much information as to the geography, history, native population, administration of justice, exploration, and development of Papua; and to this Sir William MacGregor, to whom much of the early development of the territory is due, has added a useful preface.

The map and index are serviceable, and the illustrations are better than usual.

E. IM T.

'By Field and Flood.' By Alfred Searcy. (London: Bell. 1912. Pp. 327. *Map and Illustrations*.) This book has the sub-title of "Adventures Ashore and Afloat in Northern Australia," and certainly needed it, for the title itself can hardly be commended either for lucidity or for appropriateness to a book which

deals with a mere personal narrative of one who has worked his own way in Northern Australia, and has had many exciting adventures with both men and beasts, and with the forces which nature exercises against those whose lot is cast in tropical lands.

## MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

### WEATHER FORECASTING.

‘Nouvelle Méthode de Prévion du Temps.’ Par Gabriel Guilbert, avec une Préface par Bernard Brunhes. Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 1909. Pp. xxxviii., 331. *Charts and Plates.*

The rules laid down and discussed in this work for forecasting the weather may be said to represent the most advanced stage of the method of synoptic charts yet attained, and although it may be some time before they are adopted in the various national meteorological offices as supplementary aid to the ordinary rules which it has taken some half a century’s experience to evolve, they have been acknowledged as valuable by eminent meteorologists.

The rules in question are fundamentally three in number, and may be stated thus in our own words:—

(1) Every atmospheric depression which gives rise to winds which are too strong for, or are abnormal by excess with respect to, the barometric gradient associated with them, will fill up more or less rapidly—the more rapidly as the excess of velocity is greater; and conversely, a depression surrounded by winds too feeble for the gradient, or such as are abnormal by defect of velocity, will deepen and perhaps develop into a tempest.

(2) A depression will move towards the region of least resistance, which, in the case of a depression surrounded partly by winds abnormal by excess and partly by those abnormal by defect, as defined in (1), is in the direction where the abnormality by defect is greatest. If the depression had, say, winds too strong on its west, south, and east sides, and winds normal for the barometric gradient on the north side, it would be driven to the north, and *à fortiori*, would be so diverted if the wind on this said north side were abnormally weak.

(3) Pressure will rise in a direction, from right to left, normal to the wind which is, proportionally to the gradient, strongest round a depression [which indeed really follows from (2)].

These three main propositions and their numerous subdivisions are discussed and illustrated very fully by their author in the work before us, together with the various critical objections to which they have been subjected. The problem ultimately resolves itself into this: will a cyclonic depression shown on a barometric chart develop or disperse? and in what direction is it likely to be drawn? If a wind on one side of a depression is blowing through any cause in the opposite direction to that which the influence of the said depression would cause it to blow, such a wind illustrates the extreme case of a wind abnormally deficient in velocity with respect to the barometric gradient between it and the centre of the depression, and will invariably attract the depression towards it. Such a wind is called by M. Guilbert a “divergent” wind, and may be illustrated by, say, a north-westerly current over the North sea blowing tangentially away from a cyclonic centre situated to the west of Ireland, or by a westerly wind blowing in a straight line directly away from that centre.

This is what must needs be a very inadequate outline of M. Guilbert’s empiric rules for what they are worth, or rather, for what they will be found to be worth