

engaged in sanguinary struggles and when the Argentine Confederation became involved in disputes with European powers.

The fourth monograph is the *pièce de résistance*. Groussac's essay upon the *Bases* of Alberdi and constitutional development in Argentina is a critical study of Argentina's much-discussed philosopher, Juan Bautista Alberdi, and of his influence upon the framers of the Argentine constitution of 1853—a constitution which, with some modifications, still serves as the fundamental charter of the Argentine nation. In that essay, Groussac is not only a critic, he is also a polemist. Some students of Argentine constitutional history will regret that the erudite author did not somewhat modify his opinions concerning the Argentine constitution of 1853, especially in view of the criticisms which have been made of them by a young Argentine scholar. In this monograph, in particular, the reviewer felt that the footnotes were occasionally lacking in the specific detail which would prove useful to North American students of Argentine history.

The volume under review contains four noteworthy studies by one of the leading historical critics of South America. The reviewer hopes that the publisher will complete his task of publishing in collected form certain works of Señor Groussac. In this way North American historical students may hope to become acquainted with some critical and illuminating studies which have been written by the director of the great library that was founded by Mariano Moreno.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON.

British Exploits in South America: A History of British Activities in Exploration, Military Adventure, Diplomacy, Science, and Trade in South America. By W. H. KOEBEL. (New York: The Century Company, 1917. Pp. xiv, 587. Illus. \$4.00.)

The author of this book in his prefatory statement claims for his work "a total lack of haste in its preparation". There was no "rapid gathering together of material", but rather "a lengthy process of selection" (p. vii). Even to such a prolific writer as Mr. Koebel—he has "managed to deliver" himself of "eighteen books" (p. viii)—such advantages must have been found necessary to the performance of the large task suggested by the title of this volume, but their enjoyment makes his responsibilities correspondingly great.

This book is divided into four very uneven parts. The first describes the experiences of the early navigators, adventurers, and "buc-

aneers"; the second, which is perhaps the most valuable of the four, covers the period of the wars of independence and treats of the British aid to the republican cause in South America; the third narrates the exploits of the British during most—and not the "early part", as is stated in the title—of the nineteenth century, with disproportionate space, six chapters out of nine, allotted to Brazil; the fourth tells, it is announced, of "Scientific and Literary Observers", but in reality it is devoted to these not only, but to British "achievements" in trade, to politics, to the British immigrants, to prophecy, and to odds and ends of information which make this part particularly heterogeneous in character. At the last there are a bibliography of books published since 1870 and a list of "British arrivals in the River Plate at the beginning of the nineteenth century".

The volume is devoid of footnote references either to original materials and documents or to standard secondary works. Its contents are drawn, as is indicated in the body of the writing, from memoirs and travel narratives, though the publications of the Hakluyt Society are used to a certain extent. These sources are almost entirely British.

The style in which Mr. Koebel wrote seems to warrant the assumption that his book was intended for the general reader, rather than for the student. It is racy, sometimes eloquent; and around many British exploits and heroes there are thrown romance and glamor. Yet, it is characteristic throughout that the author permitted himself to indulge an episodical habit, which renders the work disjointed and at times tiresome. Mr. Koebel all too frequently digresses from his legitimate theme to record bits of Hispanic-American history, the pertinence of which is often not apparent. It is difficult, for instance, to see the appositeness in devoting four pages (313-316) to tell how in 1817 the United States minister to Brazil avoided a servile and undignified obeisance then exacted by the court. Although the work is episodical and although there are chapters, particularly those on Brazil, which are diffuse, exhaustive treatment can scarcely be claimed for any portion. And the writer did not take the pains to investigate many details of minor importance on which his memory was admittedly uncertain, as when writing of an important edition he stated "whether the first or not I am unable to say" (p. 742).

Chapter XXII, entitled "South America in English Print", gives a descriptive, critical, or analytical comment on some of the books on South America by British and American writers. Those listed as by Americans are too few to make the chapter of great value as a bibliog-

raphy and the lack of care (as on p. 476) in differentiating them from those by British may be misleading to the general reader. Quotations "to show the author as he is" are printed after many of the books. The selection of authors for extended comment seems haphazard. Latham's *The States of the River Plate* receives two pages (473-474), while a title like *Narrative of Facts connected with the Change effected in the Political Conditions and Relations of Paraguay, under the Direction of Dr. Thomas Francia* is merely mentioned (p. 444).

Not only are there many errors and omissions in the bibliography, but there is a marked carelessness in the printing of the book. We are left in doubt as to the correct form "Londrez" (p. 101) or "Londres" (p. 103); "Hillyar" or "Hillyard" (p. 218). There are inaccurate and imaginative explanations of the terms "gringo" (p. 253) and "Red Shirts" (p. 379), as applied to the followers of Garibaldi. The use of accents is rather capricious, as, for instance, in the forms "Tarapacà" and "Tarapaca". Such words as "Bucaneers", "Inglessa", "Inglez", "Ramcagua" require orthographic attention. The work has a very complete index.

W. W. PIERSON, JR.

In the Wilds of South America. By LEO E. MILLER, of the American Museum of Natural History. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, [1918]. Pp. 424. \$4.50.)

Close and thorough attention to details may reasonably be expected to result from the training that makes the efficient naturalist. Such attention, with ability to see details and exactness in describing them, are shown by the reports made by Leo E. Miller of his six years of exploring and studying nature and her works over 150,000 miles of South America. The value of his work is not lessened by his giving many facts that should have practical value and interest for the prospector, the lumberman, and the engineer, for a carrier, for a capitalist and for other students: nor by the style of his narration, that should make his account delightful for the general reader. For he tells of the shape of the face of the places he saw, the size, height, and trend of the cordilleras, of their biting cold and sweltering heat; of dim aisles beneath tall giants that in tropic forests survived only by smothering their rivals, only to be choked to death by lianas that had for years depended upon their victims. He tells of the peoples, their joys, their griefs and the ailments that sap whatever strength they may have had; and of carriers who, with seventy-five pounds of cargo, and their rations