BOOK NOTICES

along the coast may satisfy them. But, no matter what one's field of specialization, this book will provide a few hours of pleasurable and light reading.

University of West Florida  

WILLIAM S. COKER


Both of the reprints reviewed here reflect in different ways the impact which the abolition of slavery and the coming of free trade had on the once thriving sugar culture of the British West Indian colonies. David Turnbull's collection of documents provides the best contemporary account of the origins of the Jamaican attempt to secure the suppression of the slave trade to Cuba and Brazil. Although pages 5-57 inclusive provide a brief survey of British efforts to secure abolition of the slave trade by other nations, the bulk of the work is concerned (1) with public anti-slave-trade meetings held on the island of Jamaica in 1849, (2) with official correspondence of the British government with the Jamaicans and the Spanish and Portuguese governments, concerning violations of the treaties regulating the suppression of the slave trade, and (3) with friendly newspaper editorials concerning the movement. For Latin American historians, the sections on the historical background (pp. 5-57), the treatment of the Emancipados in Cuba and Brazil (pp. 129-157), and the illegal smuggling of blacks from the Bahamas into Cuba (pp. 212-233), will be of greatest interest. Unfortunately the work lacks both an index and a table of contents.

Henry Kirke's reminiscences afford a pleasantly rambling account by a former sheriff of Demerara of life in British Guiana in the period from 1872 to 1897. Kirke's prevailing attitude is that of a tolerant, educated English official who accepts the existing establishment but sees room for improvement of existing social conditions. Although badly organized, the work is nevertheless a valuable commentary on the complex multi-racial society of a colony which has received little attention from British imperial historians. The large-scale importation of laborers, first of Negro slaves and later of indentured Portuguese, East Indians, and Chinese, into the colony created a legacy of conflict which confronted British officials at every turn. Although Kirke's analysis of social conditions is unsystematic, the work is rich in information on social habits and criminal behavior in the colony, particularly among the lower classes. Filled with entertaining stories and anecdotes, this makes good reading for both the specialist and the student.

Louisiana State University  

PATRICK LIPSCOMB