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is plentiful. Interesting details on the Indians abound. The appendix contains a valuable bibliography of sources and evidence corollary to the main topics of the book.

AD. F. BANDELIER.

Trails, Trappers, and Tender-feet in the New Empire of Western Canada. By Stanley Washburn. xvi and 350 pp. Map, ills. A. Melrose, London. Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1912. \$3. 9 x 6.

The author opens his book with an apology for adding another volume to the "vast list with which the much abused public is already surfeited." One of his excuses for writing is acceptable since it expresses his desire to place on record the conditions existing in the wilds of Canada that are now being penetrated by the ever advancing foot of civilization and soon will be a land of all modern conveniences.

The story of the author's experiences in Western Canada on successive tours is related very largely from the standpoint of the experiences encountered by uninitiated explorers. Therefore it is instructive for the person who contemplates similar trips. The vivid style fills one with admiration for Western Canada.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Hurricanes of the West Indies. By Oliver L. Fassig. 28 pp. Maps. *Weather Bureau Bull. 10*, U. S. Department of Agric., Washington, 1913. \$1.50. 11½ x 9½.

The hurricanes of the West Indies have an increasing interest for American meteorologists because of the approaching opening of the Panama Canal and the resulting considerable changes in many sailing routes. Hence this is an opportune time for a further investigation of these remarkable phenomena, especially of their origin, frequency, monthly distribution and tracks. Professor Fassig, who was for several years in charge of the Weather Bureau work in Porto Rico, and who, during that period, made himself thoroughly acquainted with the climatology of that island as well as with the meteorology of the surrounding areas, has given us a report on the *Hurricanes of the West Indies* which is timely and valuable. The material upon which he has based his studies is chiefly that of the past 35 years, but he has not neglected the results of earlier investigations. The matter is presented clearly and concisely, without too much attention to details, and the charts and diagrams are well chosen and distinctly helpful.

Professor Fassig is of the opinion that the seasonal variations in position and intensity of the "centers of action" will furnish the explanation of the origin of these violent disturbances. Quoting Eliot's well-known passage in the "Handbook of Cyclonic Storms in the Bay of Bengal" (1900) regarding the conditions which give rise to cyclonic storms in that region, Professor Fassig concludes his discussion as follows: "Similar conditions are doubtless produced within the hurricane area of the West Indies by the advance of the North Atlantic high into the region of calms, or by the conflict between the opposing winds of the North and South Atlantic high areas, resulting in the formation of hurricanes, just as the advance and the retreat of the high area over the South Indian Ocean gives rise to the southwest monsoon and the squalls and cyclones over the Bay of Bengal." A somewhat fuller discussion of this important point would have been welcomed by meteorologists.

R. DEC. WARD.

The British West Indies. Their History, Resources, and Progress. By Algernon E. Aspinall. xii and 435 pp. Map, ills., index. Little, Brown, & Co., Boston, 1912. \$3. 8½ x 6.

If this volume strikes the reader as lacking in consistency between its several chapters it is to be remembered that Mr. Aspinall is the author of the standard guide to the region and has acquired a method of treatment which must prove hard to shake off when preparing a new work on the same