

The New Books

OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS

It is unfortunate that at a time when South America offers the one solution for certain distressing commercial conditions so little accurate information is available regarding the great continent.

What really amounts to a Baedeker of the South American republics has recently been compiled by W. A. Hirst and published under the name of *A Guide to South America*. This work is concise and unlike Baedeker in that it gives little that will interest the sight-seers and much of service to the traveler and business man. The author provides a historical outline of each country, gives its chief products, cities and lines of transportation with a brief word for art and letters. There is a map of each republic with the lines of communication outlined and in this connection it must be remarked that at least one of these maps shows a direct error. On the map of Venezuela there is a railroad shown from Encontrados to Cucuta in Colombia. As a matter of fact this road extends only from Encontrados to La Uruca, a distance of about eighty-five miles, and some one hundred and fifty miles short of Cucuta.

In writing of *The Plateau Peoples of South America*, Alexander A. Adams falls into a deplorable and common error. He speaks of "the negro republics of San Domingo and Haiti," apparently wholly unaware that while Haiti is indeed a "negro republic" of the blackest and most terrible order, San Domingo shows in her people no negro blood at all, but simply that mixture of Indian and Spanish that obtains from Mexico to the Straits. Otherwise the book is mildly interesting and superficially informative.

A Guide to South America, by W. A. Hirst. The Macmillan Co. \$1.75. *The Plateau Peoples of South America*, by Alexander A. Adams. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.25.