

studies in several branches of history and science, but it would also provide an exceptionally favourable field for its research workers in the collection and preparation for publication of material under the supervision of those departments of the university whose subjects come within the scope of the "History". Too much time, thought, and money have been expended on the work so far as it has gone for it to be allowed to come to premature end without some strenuous effort to secure its successful completion. Even if it be too much to expect in these difficult days that sufficient support for the completion of the work will be forthcoming, it is greatly to be hoped that steps will be taken to preserve for research purposes the vast amount of material which has been collected from original sources for various volumes of the "History" yet unpublished.

The Future of China

The Capital Question of China. By Lionel Curtis. Pp. xix + 322. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1932.) 10s. 6d. net.

MR. LIONEL CURTIS has done a public service in writing this book. It treats of the plight of at least a fifth of the human race, to whose condition our past actions have demonstrably contributed. It traces the effects of a leaven of modern scientific thought, working in a society not socially or politically organised to receive it. It gives a short but adequate survey of the antecedents, and makes a few tentative suggestions for ameliorative action. Here, no doubt, the reader will feel the need of further guidance; but, as Mr. Curtis insists again and again, the first essential is that we in the West, and especially the British and American peoples, should take an increasing interest in the matter and inform ourselves as to the state of affairs.

This purpose the book admirably fulfils, and, as our more immediate concerns in the West become less harassing, we shall be able to turn with a calmer and more united mind to the even larger problems which the future of China unfolds. But every one should read the book without delay, if only to revive his memory of recent events and put them in the right setting of world-history at the most crucial meeting point of East and West. Three lines of contact have persisted since the middle ages and have been much extended in modern times: trade, which has led to the foreign concessions and 'unequal treaties'; religion, which has been steadily and heroically promoted by

Christians of all sects, with good humanitarian results, but without increasing the political stability of the country; science, which in recent years has been eagerly studied by the élite of the younger generation, and is the strongest revolutionary force. All this has gone on without the political training which Rome afforded in the ancient world and England has given to India and other parts of the modern world.

Mr. Curtis deals briefly but fairly with the Manchurian question and the claims and recent actions of Japan. He stands firmly for the essential unity of China, and holds that Japan will live to regret her 'gunboat' policy. The two definite suggestions which he makes for British policy are: that we should set up our legation in close contact with the Chinese government, the place being somewhere in the Yangtze valley; secondly, that we should send out some one of full diplomatic standing and the highest personal qualifications to advise and co-operate with the Chinese central authorities. Cromer and Milner suggest to him the desirable type among English administrators; Dwight Morrow, whose work in Mexico had no proconsular touch, seems a nearer analogy. But the problems of Mexico are child's play in comparison; China is an ancient world thrown into chaos.

F. S. MARVIN.

Short Reviews

Witwatersrand Mining Practice. By Prof. G. A. Watermeyer and S. N. Hoffenberg. (Published by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, Gold Producers' Committee.) Pp. xxxii + 895. (Johannesburg: Hortors, Ltd., 1932.) 45s.

THE Mines of the Witwatersrand have produced gold worth more than £1080 millions sterling, and their annual output is half the annual world production of gold. The underground practice of so important a field, which contains some of the deepest mines of the world, is of interest to all mining engineers, especially as within the last decade great advances have been made in underground working methods, as a result of exhaustive research by the mining groups.

This volume contains up-to-date descriptions of all branches of Rand underground practice. The aim of the authors has been to provide a work which would serve both as a reference book to the mining engineer and a textbook for the student. The first objective has been achieved, for the abundant technical data, the clear illustrations, and good index make the volume of great service to those wishing to keep abreast of modern underground practice on the Rand, without the inconvenience of consulting the transactions of a number of different technical societies. In order to serve as a textbook of mining with special