

The work gives an excellent review of land conditions in China from Ancient to Present times. Students of economics and others will find it most useful. The author has relied on the histories of China, especially on the Wen Hsien T'ung K'ao for records up to the thirteenth century. It would have been convenient if he had inserted Chinese characters in addition to the romanized forms. Such works as these are very welcome.

Prof. Asakawa's essays is a clear and concise account of Feudal institutions. It is very well done. M.

Gramatica Chino-Espanola. By Rev. Father P. A. GONZALEZ, Agustinian Missionary of Southern Hunan (China). Quarto, 290 Pages. Printed by "The Central China Post," Hankow, 1917.

Those who have learned Chinese cannot help thinking that a Chinese Grammar is not a very necessary part of one's equipment to study the language, for as far as it is known, the Chinese have no idea of grammatical distinctions, as we are accustomed to, indeed, we do not know of any Chinese work on such a subject.

In China, a word may be used as a substantive, adjective or verb, the user following his own judgment, and its position only serves as a clue in what sense it should be understood.

Chinese, one of the most monosyllabic tongues known, is rich in ideographic symbols. Hence, the vulgar saying that other languages speak to the ear, while Chinese speaks to the eye.

Undoubtedly, to this fact is due that men like Giles, Wade, Parker and other well-known sinologues, who have eliminated from their work any serious mention of Chinese Grammar, although Abel-Remusat (French), Morrison (English), Bazin (French), 1854, Philo-Sinensis (Latin), 1842, Edkins (English), Rev. C. W. Mateer and some others, have bequeathed to us more or less classical attempts which are more confusing than practical, in our opinion.

It is, therefore, more to be admired, when we think of the enormous love-labour it represents to compile a Chinese Grammar, in Spanish, especially so. Unfortunately, must we confess regretfully, that very few of our compatriots dedicate themselves to this language, except in the case of a few Spanish Missionaries who reside in China, principally in Hunan and Fokien.

However, it is with natural pride that we go through this work, especially as it reminds us that it is not by any means the first attempt at a Chinese Grammar in Spanish. In fact, one of the first works of this kind ever written in any European language was "Arte de la Lengua Chinica, que vulgarmente se llama Mandarinina," composed by

the Rev. Father Fr. Juan Rodriguez, of the same order as the Author of the book under review. This work does not seem to have ever been printed, but numerous copies have been taken from it, the original manuscript still existing in the Manila Agustinian Convent's Archives, and is specially mentioned in the "Monitor de Paris" of 1794. Besides this work, we know of one written in Spanish also, by the Rev. Father Fr. Juan Masip, of the Dominican Order, published in the beginning of the present century.

With Father Gonzalez's work, the Spanish Missionary possesses an extremely important adjunct to his vocabularies, which necessarily must help the student.

We regret though, that in our opinion, it would have been even more useful to the cosmopolitan population in China, had the romanisation used therein been Wade's, which is generally adopted and found the more easy to pronounce. Also we believe it would have improved it, if it did not contain that interminable series of accounts, which must necessarily puzzle the student. To demonstrate our opinion, we have picked up half a dozen words from page 72 of the work, dealing with adjectives :

		GONZALEZ ROMANIZES :	WADE :
Thick leather	(厚皮)	heóu-p'i	hou p'i
Square table	(方棹)	fáng-chô	fang chuo
Cold water	(冷水)	lèng-suèi	leng shui
Unknown man	(生人)	sêng-rên	sheng jen
New	(新)	sîn	hsin
Small	(小)	siào	hsiao

As it can be seen, unless under the direct supervision of a native teacher, no foreigner, not even a Spaniard, can correctly pronounce these words, as given in the text.

Nevertheless, in Father Gonzalez's book, we can find many an excellent point and can unreservedly commend his work to the student.

JUAN MENCABINI.

Poetry. A Magazine of Verse. Chicago.

This number contains nine pages of translations of poems from Chinese Written Wall Pictures. They are under the joint authorship of Mrs. Florence Ayscough and Miss Amy Lowell.

We have often wondered whether it would ever be possible to bring out the beauties of Chinese poetry which is often in 'feet' and 'allusions,' Chinese poetry when translated appears abrupt or insipid : and one wonders whether a genius would ever arise to put things right. We cannot say that it has yet come but it may be on the way. In many ways Mrs. Ayscough is a pioneer, and this idea of hers to