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Jamaica Way — our island in a nutshell

On Friday a book entitled "Jamaica Way", written by Dr. Philip Sherlock of the University of the West Indies and published by Longmans, Green and Co. reached the bookstands.

The book is an account of the history, institutions, folklore and everyday life of the new nation, and has the merit of being up-to-date as far as political developments are concerned.

Even the arts are recognized, as the book begins with a poem by A. L. "Micky" Hendriks. has several quotations from Claude McKay and other Jamaican poets, discusses the relationship between Jamaican folk-songs and the Trinidadian calypso and so on.

It has some excellent photographs, although they are too few, and one is somewhat disappointed to find that only two are by a Jamaican photographer, Amador Packer. The others are from a British firm and the Central Office of Information. The drawings are adequate, but here again are done by an outsider, thus losing somewhat in

sympathy and ingrained knowledge of local affairs.

The writing style is as engaging as might be expected, marred only occasionally by minor peculiarities for which Dr. Sherlock can hardly be responsible, such as the spellings *Anasi* (for *Anancy*), *ganga* (for *ganja*), *marihuana* (for *marijuana*) and the supposedly Spanish *Cimmaron*, given as the origin of the name *Maroons*.

The detail is otherwise fine, except for a somewhat unnecessary description of the Prime Minister as "a tall man with telescopic limbs". The whole work is perhaps the best single account so far produced for the benefit of anyone wishing a concise idea of this new little nation.

National Library of Jamaica