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*For the tourists*

Jamaica Way. By Phillip Sherlock. Pub. by Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd. Pp. 104. 8/6.

THIS LITTLE paperback appears to be intended for the tourist. But what kind of tourist? If some 200,000 visitors come to Jamaica in a year, a fair proportion of them would buy a descriptive paperback for something over a dollar, which few Jamaicans are likely to do.

But one would expect them to fall into two, if not three, different groups: those who look for a little 'local colour,' those who have an interest in the past and present of the society they are visiting, and perhaps a third group which 'does' places in a country they visit with an iron resolution not specially mingled with any sentimental tenderness for the part.

Each of the first two groups will be put off by some of the contents of this volume, and if the third group does in fact exist as a separate body, its members would probably prefer a straight guide-book presentation.

The reason for this failure to decide to which public to appeal is evidently the conviction that someone ought to produce a book which would present Jamaica to any and every tourist in the light in which the Jamaican intellectual wants it to be seen.

SINCE, from Dr. Sherlock's point of view, the image of Jamaica consists of the things that interest him, the effect of almost any individual part of the book is good, for people often write well about what interests them and so can kindle other people's interest. Nonetheless, the book appears to be a sort of Forlorn Hope pushed out into the ranks of

infidels and scorners abroad. It is odd to find the Twi Sasabonsom twice mentioned as a Jamaican demon (pp. 8, 78), and in the second case the responsibility is rather unfairly pushed onto H. G. DeLisser, who was merely using A. B. Ellis's book on the Gold Coast.

It is equally strange to find the Blue Hole promoted to Blue Lagoon (p. 23). It was not 'tradition' in Jamaica that 'politics were not respectable' (p. 69): the idea had little strength before World War I. Annie Palmer of Rose Hall was not killed in a slave rising (p. 44) in 1827 (as the book oddly states), or at any other time: the idea comes from DeLisser's novel. And the late J. G. Young showed long ago that Col. Lilley did not draw the first plan of Kingston (p. 7).

The name Cuckold's Point, which excusably intrigues Dr. Sherlock (p. 53) is 'an obscure Elizabethan joke which I do not profess to understand — I think the term is mentioned in some play.

Personally, I do not like the typography. — HPJ.