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CONTENTS:

<i>The Northeast Coast of Brazil in Ancient Cartography:</i> DR. ORVILLE A. DERBY.....	681
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Gould's Biographic Clinics:</i> DR. SOLOMON SOLIS COHEN	694
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles.....</i>	697
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The National Academy of Sciences; New York Section of the American Chemical Society:</i> DR. H. C. SHERMAN. <i>The Anthropological Society of Washington:</i> DR. WALTER HOUGH. <i>The Biological Society of Washington:</i> WILFRED H. OSGOOD.....	698
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>The Titles of Papers:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES BASKERVILLE, F. A. B. <i>Marginal and Ridge Scales in Cephalaspis and Drepanaspis:</i> DR. C. R. EASTMAN.....	702
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>On the Feasibility of measuring Tides and Currents at Sea:</i> R. A. HARRIS. <i>Sex Differences in the Sense of Time:</i> PROFESSOR ROBERT MACDOUGALL.....	704
<i>The National Physical Laboratory.....</i>	708
<i>The Bermuda Biological Station for Research:</i> PROFESSOR E. L. MARK and PROFESSOR C. L. BRISTOL	709
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	711
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>	712

THE NORTHEAST COAST OF BRAZIL IN ANCIENT CARTOGRAPHY.*

THE publication of the great atlas containing reproductions of almost all the known old maps of Brazil that accompanies the exposition of the Brazilian representative, Baron Rio Branco, to the arbitrator in the question of the limits of Guyana, makes possible, for the first time in Brazil, the study of the ancient cartography of that country. Having applied myself to this study in a recent paper entitled 'Os Mapas mais antigos do Brasil' published in Vol. VII. of the *Revista do Instituto Historico de São Paulo*, I verified the possibility of amplifying and correcting the scanty written documents relative to the first epoch of Brazilian history, and being invited by Baron Studart to contribute to the commemoration of the first settlement of the state of Ceará, it seemed to me that I could best respond to his intentions by making a similar study of the portion of the coast to which that state belongs. Both geographically and historically this portion is limited on the south by Cape Santo Agostinho and on the north by the mouth of the Amazonas, and to this section the present study will be exclusively devoted.

In the above-mentioned paper I treated summarily of this section in the analysis of the map of Juan de la Cosa of 1500 in which it was for the first time represented on the basis of the data furnished by the explorations of Vicente Yanez Pinzon and

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* Translated from the memorial volume of the tricentennial of the state of Ceará, Brazil.

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