

*Papeles de Bolívar.* Edited by Vicente Lecuna. (Caracas: Litografía del Comercio, 1917. Pp. xii, 476.)

This volume constitutes one of the most valuable contributions to the study of that much-discussed man, Simon de Bolívar y Palacios, which has yet appeared. It is a compilation of documents and other material covering the period between 1801 and 1830. They run all the way from the most intimate private letters to various relatives and friends down to public decrees and proclamations. In fact, there is a vast amount of material here for forming a correct estimate of the Liberator's personal qualities and of his policies. Most of the material is derived from Danial F. O'Leary's collection of letters written by Bolívar. In many cases, especially in that of the letters written to Urdaneta and Briceño Mendez, the present editor has used holograph letters; in other instances, O'Leary's copies of the original letters are used. Sr. Lecuna warns us that a number of the latter contain lamentable errors due to the carelessness of the amanuenses, for O'Leary copied only a few letters with his own hand. The material with which Sr. Lecuna worked is preserved in the *Archivo Nacional* at Caracas.

The numerous illustrations of the book take the form of photographic reproductions of portraits and miniatures of Bolívar and his relatives. They are beautifully reproduced, and, indeed, the whole appearance of the book, paper, type, arrangement, and decorations, is of a quality which surpasses many of the books put out by North American presses.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS.

*The Quest of El Dorado.* By J. A. ZAHM (H. J. Mozans). (New York and London: D. Appleton and Company, 1917. Pp. xiv, 261. Illustrated.)

This small book of 246 pages of text is a reprint, with minor changes and additions, of a series of articles which appeared in 1912 in the Bulletin of the Pan American Union. In it the author describes the more important expeditions in what he calls "the most romantic episode in the history of South American conquest". These range from the *jornadas* of Belalcázar and other companions of Francisco Pizarro, and of the Spaniards and Germans who operated inland from the Caribbean coast, to the mad adventure of Raleigh, and the last enterprises of the Spaniards, before the almost universal credulity of that people gave way to an unwelcome disillusionment. These romantic *gesta* were the fruit of the grandiose Quixotism of the Spanish race, shared by a occasional Elizabethan like Raleigh, and by that German of another