

tic topics. He has also edited a number of Brazilian historical classics, such as Pedro Taques, *Nobiliarchia Paulistana* and has published many volumes of documents dealing with the history of São Paulo. He is the son of Visconde de Taunay, one of the outstanding writers of the empire, and great-grandson of Nicolas A. Taunay, a distinguished French genre and landscape painter who was invited to Brazil by John VI. in 1816. Visconde de Taunay is perhaps best known for his works *A Retirada da Laguna* (a celebrated episode in the Paraguayan War) and above all for his novel *Innocencia* which has been translated into many foreign languages including the Japanese.

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*Páginas de Historia*, 2d ed. By MAX FLEIUSS. (Rio de Janeiro, Imprensa Nacional, 1930).

Rio de Janeiro, the romantically beautiful capital of Brazil, has much to offer both tourist and student. And the latter, if history be his quest, will quickly discover his Mecca to be the fine old colonial building which houses the famous Instituto Historico e Geographico Brasileiro, the oldest existing historical society in South America, for its origin goes back almost a century, to 1838. Here he will find many things of compelling interest—the hall of sessions with the great chair in which Dom Pedro presided for so many years, the excellent library, the priceless archives, the museum with its wealth of historical mementoes. But when memories are blurred by passing years the most abiding impression will be the kindly courtesy and unflagging helpfulness of the perpetual secretary of the Institute, the erudite historian, Dr. Max Fleiuss. During the past quarter century Dr. Fleiuss has found time not only to act as the tutelary guardian of this venerable body but also to write on a hundred and one topics dealing with the history of Brazil. Many of his articles are to be found in the quarterly *Revista* and other publications issued by the Institute; others, more fugitive perhaps, but still of great interest, have appeared in the daily press. With the laudable purpose of making this material more accessible, Dr. Fleiuss published a number of his articles in 1924 under the title of *Páginas de Historia*. The book under review is the second edition of this work; its size has been nearly doubled until it consists of a bulky volume of over nine hundred pages.

Naturally the contents vary both in character and importance. Certain sections are veritable books in themselves. Among the most noteworthy are those written on the occasion of the centenary of Brazilian independence in 1922 when a great historical congress was held in Rio de Janeiro. For special mention may be singled out such topics as "Cem annos de independencia", "Coroação de D. Pedro I", "A paladina da Independencia" (the empress, Leopoldina, wife of Dom Pedro I.). There is an interesting chapter on the writer's father, Enrique Fleiuss, an artist of parts and perhaps the most famous caricaturist produced by Brazil. The book reproduces a number of the most striking caricatures dealing with the reign of Dom Pedro II. To the reviewer one of the most valuable sections is that devoted to Francisco Adolpho de Varnhagen, described by Oliveira Lima as the "founder of Brazil's national history". The appraisal of Varnhagen's place in Brazilian historiography is followed by a critical bibliography of his works. Of equal interest is the essay on the Historical Institute itself. Here the author, drawing in many instances on his vast fund of personal knowledge, writes not only with authority but *con amore*. The profound influence which the Institute during its existence of almost a century has exerted both on the writing of history and on the intellectual and spiritual life of the nation is clearly set forth. The roster of its membership would probably include a majority of the outstanding figures of the past one hundred years. Dr. Fleiuss may with justice declare that the Institute is the "living record of the history of Brazil and for the Brazilian people the *nosce te ipsum* of their national tradition" (p. 503). For those initiated into Brazilian history the book of Dr. Fleiuss will prove a quarry into which they may delve with profit; to those who do not have access to the publications of the Institute the work is all but indispensable.

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*Cartas del Libertador*. By VICENTE LECUNA. (Caracas: Lit. y Tip. del Comercio, 1929-1930. 10 volumes.)

Many important historical works have come out of Venezuela, but without doubt the collection under review is one of the most valuable that has appeared in recent years. Moreover, it has come at a very auspicious time since it was published shortly before the cen-