

ventures and hardships returned to Europe in 1555. His account, which lost nothing in the telling, has become a classic of Brazilian historical literature. Prior to the publication of the book under review no less than twenty-five editions had appeared of which that by Sir Richard Burton published by the Hakluyt Society in 1874 was the most important. The present work is a translation from the original Marburg edition of 1557 prepared in 1900 by Alberto Löfgren and now published with critical notes by Theodore Sampaio. The value of the book is enhanced by the quaint woodcuts and title page taken from the recent facsimile edition of Frankfort (1927).

In rendering available to the scholarly world these classics of Brazilian colonial history, printed in an attractive format, equipped with scholarly introductions and adequate explanatory data, the Brazilian Academy has placed all students of Hispanic American History under a permanent obligation. The appearance of further volumes of the "Biblioteca de Cultura Nacional" will be awaited with eager interest.

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Historia documentada de San Cristóbal de la Habana en el Siglo XVI.

By IRENE A. WRIGHT. 2 vols. (Habana: Imprenta "El Siglo XX", 1927. Pp. xxiv, 314; 263; 8 plans.)

Historia documentada de San Cristóbal de la Habana en la primera Mitad del Siglo XVII. By IRENE A. WRIGHT. (Habana: Imprenta "El Siglo XX", 1930. Pp. viii, 190. 7 plans.)

In 1919, the Academia de la Historia of Havana, Cuba, offered prizes for the two best historical monographs to be presented to that body on "The Founding, Removal, and Development of the City of San Cristóbal de la Habana during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries". The motive for the contest was the celebration of the fourth centenary of the removal of the city of Havana from its first site on the south coast to the north side of the port then called Carenas. Although the two works presented did not exactly conform to the conditions governing the contest, the prizes were awarded to their authors, the first award being made to the author and editor of the two works noted above.

In presenting her work, Miss Wright stated that a complete work on the theme assigned could not be presented in less than four volumes. She conceived of the materials for such a work as falling into four sections, namely: Havana during the sixteenth Century, or the period of French influence; Havana during the first quarter of the seventeenth century, or the period of English influence; Havana during the second quarter of the seventeenth century, or the period of Dutch influence; and Havana during the second half of the seventeenth century. In addition to her preliminary matter, and a narrative of 176 pages, Miss Wright, in the two volumes of the first work above noted, presented 180 documents and eight plans—all never before published and reproduced from the originals in the Archivo de Indias.

Almost from the very beginning, the history of Havana was that of the island of Cuba, as Miss Wright says truly. It was the central port for the ships sailing to and from Spain—the Seville on this side of the sea. It was the center of the mercantile and military systems of the Indies, the key of their navigation, and the bulwark of their defense.

Being based entirely on documentary material and excluding all secondary works, it is not surprising that the volumes exhibit a seeming disproportion in certain features of Havana's history, for instance, on the military side. This, however, was recognized by Miss Wright herself. The military character of Havana, owing to its geographical position, was the basis of the history of Cuba during the four centuries of the colonial period. The several forts of the city and vicinity were constructed to meet the threats of the French, English, and Dutch. "Havana", Miss Wright truly remarks, "owes all its progress to wars and the fears of wars".

The seeming disproportion, then, in the character of the documents is not strange, and does not detract from their merit. The documents were excellently transcribed and present much of interest and value to the historian. The work must be consulted not only by historians of Cuba but by historians of the military art in America.

The second work noted above is a continuation of the first, but instead of restricting itself to the first quarter of the seventeenth century according to Miss Wright's plan as outlined above, it includes the first half of that century. The period covered is divided into two sections—the first (1600-1608), treating of the influence of the Eng-

lish in Cuban waters, including the final effects of the rivalry between Philip III. of Spain and Elizabeth of England. The second section covers the period of the Dutch influence which reached its apogee in 1628, when the famous Piet Heyn captured the Spanish fleet in Matanzas Bay—a great blow to Spanish prestige. In this episode and others of less prominence (as, for instance, the exploits of Cornelius Corneliszoon Jol, called “Peg Leg” in Cuba, Miss Wright has made an excellent study of Spanish navigation, the fortification of Havana, and Spanish commerce in the West Indies. Many important movements are touched on, such as the development of the shipbuilding industry in Cuba.

The second work consists of narrative, plentifully interlarded with quotations from original manuscripts. It is to be regretted that Miss Wright did not reproduce any manuscripts entire in an appendix as in the first work. However, her narrative is better than that of the first work. Both titles together form important source material for the study of Havana and Cuba.

FERNANDO ORTIZ.

Washington, D. C.

The Cuban Situation and our Treaty Relations. By PHILIP G. WRIGHT. (Washington, D. C.: The Brookings Institute, 1931. Pp. xiv, 219. \$3.50.)

This volume (No. 42 of the Publications of the Brookings Institute) belongs to that group of books written in English which Cubans, unless they can read English, should have available in Spanish; and to this book belong the recent volumes on Cuba by C. E. Chapman and L. H. Jenks, both among the principal references used by Mr. Wright. The volume deals with the relations between Cuba and the United States and their influence upon the present Cuban situation. This reviewer believes, however, that Mr. Wright did not go far enough, for he has limited himself to the treaty relations and has paid scant attention to those political considerations which have affected the economic situation.

While he points out, for instance, that United States investments in Cuba were responsible for the vast development of the sugar industry and the consequent overproduction, he has given little or no hint that a wise nationalistic program in Cuba would have maintained