

ber of the old régime, a Mexican servant girl, and a flaming apostle of learning. In a brief foreword, Diego Rivera, the well known Mexican artist, writes, among other things, the following: "Your portraits have the acuteness and grace of those painted by certain masters in my country who died before I was born. Those portraits were made with precision and tenderness and contain irony and love."

In the second volume, Mr. Chase has written a most interesting comparative study of a machine and a machineless civilization. He evinces much enthusiasm for the ancient civilizations of the Aztecs and the Mayas and deals harshly with the Spanish régime. For this reason, the work should be read with caution. Written in a most interesting style, the volume provokes thought; citizens of the United States cannot fail to profit by a perusal of its pages. It is not only a stimulating study of Mexican civilization, but it also suggests the analogy between Mexico and several other countries of Hispanic America.

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Justo Rufino Barrios. By PAUL BURGESS. (Philadelphia: Dorrance and Co., Inc., 1926. Pp. xxii, 263. Illus. \$3.00.)

Dr. Burgess, for some years a Protestant missionary in Guatemala, based his study largely on primary sources, especially official documents, filling gaps and supplementing with oral testimony from associates and other contemporaries of Barrios. His book, in addition to being a biography of the most important political figure produced by Central America, is a survey of Guatemalan history—and to a considerable extent of Central American—from independence to the death of Barrios, in April, 1885. The author is open-minded and fair in his treatment of controversial subjects. Though he admires Barrios, he is aware of the faults of his hero, and criticizes some aspects of his relations with the Roman Church, as well as various other acts. The result is a vivid and apparently trustworthy portrait of the adventurer-statesman. Nervous and restless, Barrios played practical jokes for recreation. Emotional and impulsive, though he loved his country, he seemed incapable of really studying its problems in an effort to solve them wisely, and of making careful, consistent preparation for the changes he wished to bring about. Opposition to his

policies he met with force. When one of his ministers reminded him of the "constitution", he shook his horsewhip exclaiming, "This is the constitution I govern by" (p. 134). The chief difference between Carrera and Barrios, says Dr. Burgess, is that "the former exercised tyranny to sustain medievalism and the latter to sustain modern democratic measures" (p. 135). Barrios unquestionably was unwise in his method of trying to reunite Central America; he went about it casually and impulsively. Though he believed in union, he undertook to achieve it partly because he had exhausted the possibilities of Guatemala and needed something to do.

The frontispiece of the book is a portrait of Barrios. There is a table of contents, but no index. (Do we not need a special black list for publishers who issue informational works unequipped with indexes?) The style is verbose and otherwise faulty, but the volume is readable and is a very welcome addition to the meager bibliography of Central American history.

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Archibald Robertson, Lieutenant General Royal Engineers: His Diaries and Sketches in America, 1762-1780. Edited with an Introduction by HARRY MILLER LYDENBERG. (New York: The New York Public Library, 1930. Pp. x, (2), 300. Illus. Index. \$10.00.)

Nos. 1-30 of this handsome volume were printed on Kelmescott Hammer and Anvil hand made paper, and Nos. 31-230 on BR rag paper. The printing itself was done at the New York Public Library under the supervision of John Archer. The result mechanically is most pleasing; and this interesting volume in its attractive and substantial binding, is worth display among any collection of books. Its types are handsome and easily read. The plates are excellently reproduced, and the profusion of well executed illustrations (63 in all) enhance the value of the volume. Copies have been autographed by Mr. Lydenberg.

Its editing leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. Lydenberg has done his work conscientiously and in a scholarly manner. His annotations are sparing and to the point. The volume is a contribution to the war between England and Spain, with the consequent capture of Havana by the British in 1762; and later to the American Revolution.