

various elements of the population. There are numerous graphs, charts, and tables of statistics to amplify the text.

The evidence presented by Sr. Ellis shows that in Brazil the death rate of Negroes and mulattoes, in comparison with their birthrate, is decidedly higher than for whites. It also shows that here, as in the United States, the nationalistic Japanese tend to remain apart and not to assimilate with the population as a whole. But their ultimate merger with the other elements of the population seems assured by the fact that those with families settle in rural sections. On the other hand, the Syrians, folk without a real country of their own, have rapidly and gladly identified themselves with the native Brazilians. The wealthier ones have acquired palatial homes on the Avenida Paulista in the capital of the state, have sent their children to Roman Catholic private schools, and have joined some of the most exclusive clubs of the city. Furthermore, when, in 1932, São Paulo fought desperately for independence from the republic, the Syrians were among the staunchest supporters of the strife and many of them were at the battle front.

Sr. Ellis points out, however, that the population of the State, as a whole, loyally supported the revolutionary cause, like "a band of brothers". This fact, as well as the valuable part played by all elements of the population in the economic life of the state, support the author in his opposition to Oliveira Vianna's theory regarding the superiority of the long-headed blonde elements. But Sr. Ellis thinks that the time has come for more careful selection from the various nationalities which seek Brazilian shores.

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Barros Arana, Educador, Historiador y Hombre Público. By RICARDO DONOSO. (Santiago: Universidad de Chile, 1931. Pp. 337.)

Chile consists of a relatively thin strip of territory bordering the west coast of South America with a total area less than twice that of California, but it is doubtful if any other country of Hispanic America has produced so outstanding a group of remarkable scholars. The names of Barros Arana, Vicuña Mackenna, the two Amunáteguis, Medina, come instantly to mind as representative of the highest type of South American scholarship. All these *chilenos*—and Bello might be added to these, though he was born in Caracas—are known by their

writings which are of profound importance and permanent value; their names will loom large in the history of Spanish American culture. The first mentioned, the author of the monumental *Historia General de Chile*, is here the subject of a full-length biography by the distinguished director of the archives section of the national library at Santiago de Chile, who has also made similar studies of Vicuña Mackenna and the diplomat, Irisarri.

As the title indicates, Sr. Donoso presents a three-fold account of the life of Barros Arana, that is, as educator, historian, and statesman. Considerable space is devoted to the participation of the Chilean scholar in the extended diplomatic negotiations between his country and Argentina arising from a boundary dispute that seriously strained the peaceful relations of the two republics. Though Barros Arana played an honorable part in the eventual settling of this delicate problem, one feels that he was not at his best as a diplomat or conciliator. More in keeping with his extraordinary talents was his work as an educator. Appointed rector of the national institute in 1863, he applied himself with tireless devotion to educational reforms, both in the secondary schools and later in the university. The curricula and methods remained much the same as in the colonial period and were sadly in need of modernization. Lessons were almost solely the memorizing of texts and the latter were hopelessly archaic and inadequate. To remedy this fundamental defect, Barros Arana found time amidst pressing administrative duties to prepare a set of up-to-date textbooks on nearly all the subjects then taught in the schools. In doing this he did not resort to the usual procedure of translating a text used in French schools but wrote entirely new books in simple, straight-forward Castilian. His effort to instil a new spirit into the educational system of Chile suggests the even more profound work of Don Francisco Giner de los Ríos in Spain which was beginning about the same time. Both men were compelled to wrestle with traditional and reactionary forces, and Barros Arana was finally compelled to give up his rectorship by their hostility after ten years of remarkable service. Though his retirement was thus brought about, he had succeeded in initiating permanent improvement in the essentially medieval methods previously employed and had greatly enhanced his personal reputation.

It is as the scholar and man of letters that Barros Arana's claim to distinction is most clear, and upon this base his fame is most as-

sured. He was a born investigator with an eager, insatiable curiosity constantly striving to ferret out facts; quickly he acquired a knowledge of many fields of human interest which was encyclopedic. His was the intellect of the scholar of the renaissance of which there were numerous worthy followers both in colonial and republican Spanish America. His ardent patriotism naturally turned his interests in the direction of the history of his country and, hardly more than out of his teens, he had completed a four-volume work entitled *Historia general de la Independencia de Chile*. This still valuable work was based on a careful investigation of the books and manuscripts that he found both in the public and private libraries and archives of Chile, and on the personal accounts of survivors of the struggle for national independence whom he knew. Like most young intellectuals of Hispanic America, he early participated in politics, and soon he found himself obliged to flee the country, first to Argentina and thence to Europe. During this exile and a later visit he assembled and copied a vast amount of documentary material relating to his native land from the archives of Spain, France, and England. These precious data were incorporated into innumerable writings which poured continuously from his pen and especially in his vast *Historia general de Chile*. In January, 1875, he and Miguel Luis Amunátegui launched that most excellent organ of the intellectual life of Chile, the *Revista Chilena*, to which he contributed many of its valuable articles besides editing two of its departments—one of a bibliographical nature in which he gave notices of all recent books of importance pertaining to Chile and Spanish America, and the other devoted to often extensive necrological items concerning writers and personalities associated with American history.

Sr. Donoso gives an interesting account of the inception and writing of Barros Arana's *opus magnum*, the great history of Chile in fifteen volumes, to which the historian gave eighteen years of his life. Into this vast work he poured in prolix detail the huge store of information that he had acquired in thirty or more years of assembling material, much of it hitherto unutilized. Though some sections of this work have subsequently been rejected or supplanted, most of it remains intact and will stand as a lasting monument to its indefatigable author.

This somewhat eulogistic biography tells us, perhaps, more about what Barros Arana *did* than what he *was*, but that is natural in

recording such a busy life. Some traits of character, however, do stand out. His integrity and moral independence are revealed in his diplomatic and pedagogical activities. As one who had so often "gone back to the sources" in his writing and ideas, he was impatient of dogmatic assertions and had slight respect for traditions based upon them. It was inevitable, therefore, that he should be something of a skeptic or agnostic in religious matters. One feels a certain admiration for that rugged independence when, unlike so many other liberals and thinkers, he refused to be reconciled with the Church on his deathbed. He remained true to his lifelong convictions, dying November 4, 1907, at the age of seventy-seven.

An appendix contains hitherto unpublished documents pertaining to the boundary dispute between Chile and Argentina, the brief will of Barros Arana, a bibliography of his writings in chronological order, and a bio-bibliography. There is no index but the table of contents gives detailed chapter headings. The work, taken as a whole, is a splendid addition to a growing literature of the cultural history of Spanish America.

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O Marquez de Abrantes. By PEDRO CALMON. (Rio de Janeiro, Editora Guanabara, Waissman, Koogan Ltda., 1933. Pp. 300.)

The author of this book is one of the most prolific contemporary writers of Brazil. During the last ten years or so he has produced about a dozen volumes on literary subjects, law, history, and economics, besides numerous contributions to newspapers and magazines. This he has done apparently without neglecting his political and professional duties, having represented with great distinction his native state in the federal chamber of deputies during the last years of the "old republic" and occupying the chair of history at the normal school in Rio de Janeiro.

It is not surprising therefore to find that in spite of the brilliancy of his literary style and truly remarkable breadth of historical knowledge, his works show a rather confused general arrangement of materials and do not give the reader a clear-cut picture of their subject matter. This is particularly true in the present volume. No subject could possibly be of greater interest to the author than the personality