

scientific projects of Charles III and IV. From the very first the *protomedicato* in America was more than a mere tribunal to attest to the sufficiency of candidates to practice medicine; it was a medical court and a committee of scholars for the study of natural history. In Argentina, Juan José de Vértiz, the second viceroy of the Río de la Plata, added the promotion of this medical service to the many social and intellectual contributions he made to the viceroyalty. The medical profession produced Dr. Miguel Gorman to press the organization of the *protomedicato* in La Plata. The viceregal and professional combination thus runs true to the formula of the institution in Peru, Mexico, and Guatemala.

This book should have carried the sub-title: *Datos para su historia*. The title might give the impression that the book is a definitive analysis of one unit of this very important institution, whereas in reality it is an edited series of documents and not an organized history. At any rate, Dr. Beltrán has made a useful documentary contribution to the future history of the *protomedicato* in the Spanish colonies. If Hispanic-American authors understood how much more useful their books would be with formal bibliographies (complete data) and indices (not just a list of proper names), they would pay more attention to the conventional book-form which experience has dictated in the United States. Besides their works could then conceivably be used as reference tools.

*Crónica del muy ilustre Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario en Santa Fé de Bogotá*. Libro Primero. By GUILLERMO HERNÁNDEZ DE ALBA. (Bogotá: Editorial Centro, 1938. Pp. xiii, 348.)

The cultural history of colonial Bogotá could well be told in relation to two colleges—Nuestra Señora del Rosario of the Dominicans and San Bartolomé of the Jesuits. No orthodox university ever rivaled them as the centers of education in New Granada. Dr. Guillermo Hernández de Alba, upon the cuarto centennial of the founding of the city of Santa Fé de Bogotá, has presented the history of Rosario from its foundation (1651-1653) to 1733 in the first book now published. He has drawn heavily upon the local college archives, the papers brought over by the Jesuits to document the history of San Bartolomé, the Archives of the Indies, and much other source material.

The author feels a profound respect for the college, its students, and professors, from the founder, Fray Cristóbal de Torres, to the republican epoch. His predilection for the convent atmosphere is bespoken not alone in the title *Crónica*, but in the very style of the presentation. The volume is, then, an account of intellectual Bogotá

in the least interesting part of the colonial period. Although written by a modern, it covers a time not marked by intellectual evolution in America. Hence, there is little difference between this production and, let us say, the *Crónica* (1687) of Plaza y Jaén on the University of Mexico. But it is useful as documentation to the general historian and, of course, is the very grist upon which the mills of local history grind. More illuminating, because more general and more concise, is the author's *Panorama de la Universidad de la Colonia* (pp. 13).

A more useful service could be performed in the next book which, supposedly, will cover that period in which the tenets of modern philosophy and science penetrated even the doors of Rosario. If the book is to rise to the requirements, it will have to abandon the sterile technique dictated by the nature of the ground covered in the first book. The break between the books would make a good point from which to begin an analytical history of Bogotá in general and Rosario in particular. It should answer questions left untouched in the first volume, such as: What was the status of literature in the college? When and how did methodical doubt begin to pervade the theses of its students? What influence did this philosophical education have upon those "distinguished sons" of whom Rosario can boast? In what manner were Aristotelian and Galenic science replaced in the city? It would be hard to incorporate these answers in a mere chronicle and difficult to find them if the incorporation were achieved.

*Historia de la enseñanza en Chile.* By AMANDA LABARCA H. (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Universitaria, 1939. Charts. Pp. xv, 399.)

This book, although modestly undertaken by the author, has been very competently done. Within the space of a single volume the history of education has been carried from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. The high places in the course of educational evolution—the work of the religious orders, the creation of the University of San Felipe, the career of the famous educational progressive, Manuel Salas, the work of Sarmiento in Chile, and the unfolding of the present system—are successfully incorporated. In the early stages of the work, on higher education, for example, honest dependence is placed upon the works of Medina and Fuenzalida Grandón. In the later chapters, rendered graphic by charts, the author has been able to depend upon institutional research. As a simple one-volume history of education in all of its ramifications, this book, published by the University of Chile, should be considered a task well done.