

here were "experts" doing the same type of guesswork, men whose function it was to make contributions to the subject rather than to repeat the loose speculations of uninformed observers. Yes, a reporter could hardly have been expected to offer an original approach to the problem of defaulted debts. But here were "experts" who had nothing to say. Yes, a reporter could hardly be expected to devise new administrative techniques for our direct investments. But here were experts who could do little more than recognize the problem; James H. Drumm of the City Bank did put forth a plan, but the discussion of it was empty. How many of those in attendance had ever sat down to a serious consideration of hemisphere trade data and settled in their own minds the merits or lack of merit of a hemisphere-preference scheme? The reporter is responsible for reporting spot news, but not so the university expert. Too little imagination, too little original research—these are the chief shortcomings revealed by the Conference.

It will be pointed out that the Conference included members from the banking and business world as well as from Washington and the universities, but disappointment in its proceedings is most intense in the case of the university representatives from whom disinterested original studies are badly needed. We have entered upon a decade when the economic problems of Latin America will command greater attention. Are the universities to contribute to the solution of these problems?

SIMON G. HANSON.

Washington, D. C.

Man of Glory. Simón Bolívar. By THOMAS ROURKE. (New York: Morrow and Co., 1939. Pp. xiii, 395. Illustrations 6. Map. \$3.50.)

This volume adds another item to the growing list of popular books on the Great Liberator of South America. In this volume Thomas Rourke (as his name is printed on the title-page), the author of a realistic book on the last Dictator of Venezuela, presents a biography of a South American leader of the revolutionary era who was not only a political philosopher, a framer of constitutions, and a giant among military leaders, but also the uncrowned king of northern South America during the last years of the protracted struggle for independence from Spain. The text of this biography is adorned with a half-dozen illustrations, mostly obtained from the Grace Lines and the Pan-American Union. On a map of Bolívar's South America, the most important towns and battlefields are located without any indication, however, of the main routes followed by the victorious

armies of liberation. The text is followed by an inadequate bibliography which does not even mention the published writings of Francisco de Miranda, José de San Martín, and Francisco de Paula Santander, three great contemporaries of Bolívar who played important rôles in the movement for South American emancipation.

The text is divided somewhat illogically into five parts. Part I traces the life of Simón de Bolívar from 1783 to 1812, the juncture when General Miranda was made the first Dictator of Venezuela, after a terrible earthquake had devastated his native land and undermined the power and prestige of the patriots. These were the years when the young creole Bolívar was, so to speak, finding himself. In journalistic fashion the author leaves out little of the anecdotal or legendary material with which admiring biographers have embellished this part of the Liberator's career. Though Rourke uses such phrases as "it is said," "some claim," "a story told," yet he does not always undertake to distinguish between the true and the false like a scientific historian. Part II includes the months from July, 1812, when the first republic of Venezuela was wounded to the heart until December, 1813, when Bolívar had almost completed a reconquest of his native land from the Spaniards. Part III includes the brief but significant interlude in his life when the Venezuelan leader in spite of his "war to the death" against the Spanish royalists was driven into exile in the West Indies. It was during this exile that the dauntless leader composed his famous prophetic letter to a gentleman of Jamaica in which he undertook to forecast the political fortunes of the nations which were to arise amid the ruins of the Spanish colonial system and to predict the convocation on the Isthmus of Panama of the first international American congress. Part IV describes in considerable detail the tortuous path of glory which the tireless leader of the revolution pursued from 1817 to 1824—a path which led him successively from Angostura in the Orinoco Valley to Boyacá on the elevated plateau of New Granada, from Carabobo in the plains of Venezuela to Bomboná on the equatorial slopes of the Andes, and from the pestiferous port of Guayaquil to the City of the Kings, the capital of the ancient viceroyalty of Peru. Part V traces the sudden descent of the Great Liberator from the pinnacle of glory reached in 1824 to his sad and untimely death at Santa Marta in December, 1830, an exile from his native city, disillusioned and heart-broken.

Though the atmosphere of this book is full of color, and few good stories are missed, it has several shortcomings. The occasional use of Spanish words (like "coleando") will be apt to bother those readers who are not acquainted with the language of Spanish America. The

almost total absence of footnote references to authorities makes it difficult and at times impossible to check misleading or suspected statements. On page 195 the author unblushingly discovers that in or about 1819 President James Monroe recognized as a belligerent the struggling republic of Venezuela, which had hardly a permanent habitation. A little farther on Rourke characterizes Bernardo O'Higgins, an exiled Chilean who played a prominent part in the emancipation of his native land from Spanish rule, as "the Irish patriot President of Chile." The author does cast doubt upon an absurd statement attributed to "some historians" to the effect that an agent sent from the United States to the camp of Bolívar in 1819 was the littérateur Washington Irving. The Great Liberator is credited with having issued invitations not only to all the Latin-American nations but also to England and the United States to send delegates to the Congress which he wished to assemble on the Isthmus of Panama. Thus it is that although this biography depicts a glowing panorama which should interest the so-called general reader, it will prove disappointing to the serious student of one of the most significant movements in modern history.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON.

University of Illinois.

Proclamas y Discursos del Libertador. Edited by VICENTE LECUNA. (Caracas: Lit. y Tip. del Comercio, 1939. Pp. vii, 455.)

To supplement the ten volumes of *Cartas del Libertador* which he edited and which were printed by the government of Venezuela in 1929-1930, Vicente Lecuna, Venezuelan engineer, banker, and historian, Director of the Academia de la Historia of Venezuela and outstanding authority on Bolívar, has issued a thick volume of proclamations and speeches of Bolívar. The compilation was ordered published by President Eleazar López Contreras on October 27, 1936. According to the decree of publication, it was to be distributed among the national libraries and presidents of the Bolivarian countries (in very fine paper), to the people and institutions dedicating themselves to the study of Bolívar (in fine paper), and to the colleges, schools, and persons interested in receiving it (in plain paper). The National Academy of History was commissioned to compile and arrange the documents, make an analytical index of them, and take charge of the editing. This has been ably done under the supervision of the erudite and scholarly Dr. Lecuna, who has also contributed as an introduction to the work a valuable bibliographical note on previous publications of decrees of speeches of Bolívar, published between 1842 and 1930.