

lished documents and secondary works and add nothing new. The three final sketches were written by Manuel J. Jiménez between 1889 and 1900 and are in the most flamboyant style of the time and place. Those concerned with the *encomienda* will find the re-publication of the tabulation of the first *repartimiento* of Costa Rica in 1569 (B. A. Thiel, *Revista de Costa Rica*, Año VI) of interest. The volume has as its purpose the summarization of data concerning those who founded the colony, and this it accomplishes, but nothing more.

ROBERT S. CHAMBERLAIN.

Carnegie Institution of Washington.

*Pedro de Valdivia. La conquista de Chile. Cartas al emperador Carlos V. Prólogo y notas de Luis Alberto Sánchez.* [Biblioteca Amauta. Serie América.] (Santiago de Chile: Ediciones Ercilla, 1940. Pp. 131. \$12.00 m/n.)

In commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Santiago de Chile in 1541, the Ercilla press has issued a new edition of the five most important letters of Pedro de Valdivia to the crown. Together these reports give a history of the conquest of Chile until October, 1552. They are too well known to need much comment. Both individually and collectively, they have been printed many times in the past century, and in 1929 were included by José Toribio Medina in his virtually definitive edition of the known letters on Chile of Valdivia. Earlier, in 1926, an English translation of them by R. B. Cunninghame Graham appeared as an appendix to his life of the Spanish conqueror. The present volume, which reproduces the text and orthography found in the *Colección de historiadores de Chile . . .* (I, 1-62. Santiago de Chile, 1861), provides an accurate, low-priced, and attractive edition. Luis Alberto Sánchez has added the few notes necessary to explain words and passages to the Chilean public, and in his foreword gives a brief sketch of the life of Valdivia, appreciations of the literary and historical value of the letters, and a short, selected bibliography on the founder of Spanish Chile and his epoch. He also has made the interesting and long overdue correction of identifying the royal highness to whom the letter of June 15, 1548, is addressed, not with Charles V or the Council of the Indies as previous editors have done, but with Prince Philip.

WOODROW BORAH.

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