

eastern area certain outside influences are found in the Paya; for example, Güetar elements from the Costa Rican highlands, and the remains of two Mexican (Nahua) settlements on the coast near the present city of Trujillo.

The report represents a survey of early Spanish historical sources, the interpretation and collation of previous archaeological work in the region, and a detailed report on excavations by the author in the Black River region (Peroles Calientes), the Aguán valley, and the Sula-Ulúa plain. Excellent illustrations add much to the value of the work. In summary, the report should appeal to historians interested in sixteenth-century Honduras, as well as to the archaeologist.

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*Reflexiones sobre la ley de 10 de Abril de 1834 y otras obras.* By FERMÍN TORO. (Caracas: Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección de Cultura, 1941. Pp. 306. Bs. 3.)

*Resumen de la geografía de Venezuela.* By AGUSTÍN CODAZZI. (Caracas: Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección de Cultura, 1940. 3 vols., pp. 303, 148, 382. Bs. 5.)

*Antología del cuento moderno venezolano.* By ARTURO USLAR PIETRI and JULIÁN PADRÓN. (Caracas: Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección de Cultura, 1941. Pp. 352, 204. 2 vols. Bs. 5.)

*Antología de costumbristas venezolanos del siglo XIX.* By MARIANO PICÓN-SALAS. (Caracas: Ministerio de Educación Nacional, Dirección de Cultura, 1941. Pp. 349. Bs. 2.50.)

These volumes are new editions of famous works in Venezuelan science, literature and political philosophy issued by the Dirección de Cultura. The volumes comprise the Biblioteca Venezolana de Cultura. The primary object of the publication is to put these works of great Venezuelans into the hands of the youth of the country as a part of the program of national education and integration. Since some of these books are very rare and it is difficult or impossible to secure them in original editions, these volumes, issued at three bolívares or less, perform a very useful service. The first volume is by Fermín Toro who, as an intellectual figure, belongs in a class with Baralt, Cagigal, and Acosta. Throughout his life (1807-1865) he was a public figure as minister, diplomat, legislator, and professor, and was also a great scholar and writer. His reflections on the law of April 10, 1834, the famous law of liberty of contracts, is a notable

contribution to the economic and social history of the country. This is the first volume in the Colección "Clásicos Venezolanos." The three volumes, *Resumen de la geografía de Venezuela*, are by Agustín Codazzi, an Italian by birth, who gave the greater part of his life (1793-1859) to Venezuela as a soldier, engineer, geographer, colonizer, and political administrator. The first edition of this work appeared in 1841. It here appears as a part of the Colección "Viajes y Naturaleza." In the Colección "Antologías" there has been published an *Antología del cuento moderno venezolano* in two volumes. This contains selections made by Arturo Uslar Pietri, now Minister of Education, and Julián Padrón, both outstanding literary figures in Venezuela today.

The last of the volumes noted above contains selections made by Mariano Picón-Salas, another prominent present-day writer on history and literature. This latter *Antología* is rich in social history, containing selections from Cagigal, Toro, Baralt, Luis Correa, Daniel Mendoza, Bolet Peraza, Tosta García, Sales Pérez, Febres Cordero, Picón Febres, Pedro Emilio Coll, and others.

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*Artículos de costumbres.* By JOSÉ VICTORIANO BETANCOURT. [No. 2 of the fifth series of *Cuadernos de cultura*.] (Habana: Publicaciones del Ministerio de Educación, Dirección de Cultura, 1941. Pp. 227. Paper.)

Ninety-five years ago Cirilio Villaverde, a Cuban novelist, was lamenting the fact that the spicy articles of types and manners by José Victoriano Betancourt (1813-1875) had never been collected from the various newspapers and magazines in which they were appearing between 1829 and 1885. This pleasant task has just been accomplished in part by the Cuban Ministry of Education in one of the splendid pamphlets that are published periodically.

This volume contains eighteen of Betancourt's articles, including his best, "Los curros del manglar," a vivid picture of the half-savage free Negroes of the epoch of slavery who reigned supreme in their own settlement in the mangrove swamps on the shores of Havana Bay. The author wages good-natured warfare on noxious types—never on individuals. Literary kinship with Larra is not strengthened by any trace of bitterness. His colorful vocabulary is enhanced by the use of many *cubanismos*. Nowhere does his wit show itself to better advantage than in "La solterona" ("The Old Maid"), yet he gives no occasion for offense, even to the most sensitive.