

Carlos J. Finlay. Su centenario (1933), su descubrimiento (1881), estado actual de su doctrina (1942). By FRANCISCO DOMÍNGUEZ. (Havana: Cultural, S.A., 1942. Pp. 382. \$4.00.)

This volume is difficult to classify and label neatly. It is not biography, at least exclusively. Nor is it entirely bibliography or a history of yellow fever or a gallery of photographs or a collection of tributes to the great Cuban physician. It is all of those things and more. Hence, we shall perhaps have to be content with calling it a memorial or testimonial volume. As such it has a great deal of valuable information and yet at the same time so much variety in the material included that the content is at the same time an element both of strength and weakness.

The original edition of the work was published in French almost a decade ago. This is the first edition in Spanish and beyond the material contained in the first edition includes an "eighth part" on the present status of Finlay's ideas. The author is a former professor of medicine in the University of Havana and in addition to various professional honors there he is also a "foreign associate" of the Academy of Medicine of Paris.

The title itself suggests the tone and purpose of the volume. The historian and scientist are evident on many pages, the apologist on some. It is perhaps for a still later generation to determine the exact shares of credit which should go to Finlay, to Reed, to Gorgas, and to the others engaged in robbing Death of a pair of wings. In Dr. Domínguez' mind, however, the very large part of the credit belongs to Finlay. "Incomprehensible," the author tells us, "es la actitud de la Comisión Americana frente al descubrimiento de Finlay. Al principio, no se ocupó de Finlay ni de su teoría; para ella, Finlay no existía o era un maniático. . . ." That strong language may be questioned and the facts as presented may also be called into question. It remains true, however, that Finlay only recently has begun to come into his own as one of the unsung heroes in the drama. Charles Morrow Wilson in his *Ambassadors in White* properly devotes considerable attention to the Cuban doctor. Other writers, too, both scientific and lay, are doing the same thing. It will be unfortunate, however, if a cult of Finlay is allowed to develop, either in Cuba or elsewhere; that will simply be swinging the pendulum too far in the opposite direction.

One is entitled to some idea of the contents of this miscellany. The author includes a "prologue" to the Spanish edition, several testimonial letters, a preface, a laudatory extract from a report of General Leonard Wood, numerous photographs, a Finlay genealogy,

a thirty-two-page history of the discovery of the vector of the yellow fever germ, a twenty-page scientific discussion of the *Culex* mosquito, various statistical tables of inoculation experiments, about fifty pages on various aspects of the work of the United States Yellow Fever Commission, a consideration of the economic consequences of Finlay's work, a section dealing with the work of Dr. Louis Beauperthuy, an early yellow fever investigator, a detailed bibliography of Finlay's writings, many tributes to him, and other matters. The very great variety of the contents almost precludes the usual sort of criticism.

Carlos Juan Finlay's place in the history of tropical medicine is secure. This volume is a contribution of considerable value in the carving out of Finlay's final niche. It would be still further improved if it were somewhat less polemic in tone.

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Chile. By ERNA FERGUSSON. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1943. Pp. 341. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Chile is a popular, very readable travel book in which the author gives her impressions of the country, its customs, the people, and of everything with which she came into contact. As a member of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs she had a chance to make contacts with well-informed people, study the conditions of the country, and understand its historical, social, economic, and religious background. The work is, therefore, not like books written by newspapermen, who may have spent four days in a country. Although the author gives both sides of the picture—the favorable and unfavorable aspects—there is nothing in the book from which Chileans can take offense. She shows sympathetic understanding for all the difficult problems of Chile and frequently compares the attitude of Chileans and North Americans on the same subject, pointing out sharp differences and similarities.

The work should be very helpful to the general public of the United States, who know so little about the countries to the south and have so many mistaken ideas. At the same time the reader will be entertained. In the relation of Chile to the continent of South America the author contends that continental unity would be impossible because Latin-American countries still do not know or like one another. Gabriela Mistral, one of the leading women and the greatest poetess of all South America, is well portrayed, but the photograph does not do her justice. In treating the Germans of southern