

most valuable to secure some specific information as to the extent in which the experiences of American exchange students in Europe aided them in securing an adequate understanding of actual issues and developments concerning those countries and their international relations.

The chapters dealing with inter-American relations are interesting throughout. The fundamental differences in educational outlooks and methods between Anglo and Latin America and certain problems arising therefrom are clearly brought into focus. This reviewer would have particularly welcomed specific recommendations in regard to the problems of exchange of students and scholars and the intensification of scholarly coöperation between the Americas. Dr. Dugan is certainly one of the best qualified persons to deal with these subjects, in view of his long and intimate experience not only as institute head but also as government adviser and, what is most important, as a sympathetic visitor and student of Latin America.

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*El positivismo en México.* By LEOPOLDO ZEA. (Mexico: El Colegio de México, Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1943. Pp. 254. \$1.25.)

This volume is a worthy addition to the valuable series of scholarly works issued by the Colegio de México and published by the Fondo de Cultura Económica. The author, Leopoldo Zea, has presented therein an impartial and well-documented interpretative review of positivism in Mexico. Though the subject matter of the book is one that would ordinarily be regarded as difficult or "heavy," the author has reduced difficulty to a minimum through a well-planned organization of his materials and by clearly labelled sections (or parts), chapters, and subtopics. In addition, the descriptions and analyses are clearly presented in a concise and pleasing style.

The positivistic philosophy of Augustus Comte has had a singularly significant place in Mexican thought for almost a century. Positivism there has not been simply a school of thought. It has been a program of action and an instrument for a defined social group in its efforts to attain certain goals in Mexican life. So, as this author clearly points out, the study of positivism in Mexico is not merely a study of the transfer of a European philosophy to Mexico and how that philosophy affected intellectual behavior there; it is a study of how certain Mexican groups, to accomplish their

ends, seized upon positivism as an instrument for social action and how they fitted that instrument to the Mexican circumstance—political, religious, educational, economic.

Leopoldo Zea makes much of this point, and justly so, for positivism has never been in Mexico just a scheme of values for the academic edification of a few cloistered intellectuals. From the time of its first and most distinguished proponent, Gabino Barreda, in the 1860's, to well into the twentieth century, the story of positivism in Mexico is, in large part, the history of Mexico.

For an insight into the intellectual bases and tools of the various movements which characterized Mexican politics from the time of Gabino Barreda to that of Madero, *El positivismo en México* will prove a highly useful book. Since Barreda was the founder of the Escuela Preparatoria Nacional, in Mexico City, and that great institution and its smaller counterparts elsewhere in the Republic were profoundly influenced by his positivism and still give evidence of that influence, this is a must book for students of education in Mexico.

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*The Letters of Don Juan McQueen to his Family: Written from Spanish East Florida, 1791-1807, with Biographical Sketch and Notes.* Edited by WALTER CHARLTON HARTRIDGE. (Columbia: Bostick and Thornley, 1943. Pp. xxxiv, 89. \$2.50.)

Students of the Revolutionary and early National periods of American history, and especially those interested in the story of the second Spanish occupation of East Florida, will welcome the present edition of letters and other correspondence relating to the life of John McQueen, which has been so attractively prepared for publication by Mr. Walter Charlton Hartridge.

McQueen's life, spanning the period from 1751 to 1807, covered a wide range of activities. Born in Philadelphia and reared and educated in South Carolina and England, as a young man he served with distinction in the Revolution and numbered, among his friends, Lafayette and Washington.

After the war he adopted Georgia as his home and engaged in large-scale land and timber operations. During this period also he was a visitor to the French court, where his gifted personal attributes won for him additional friends. Judged from the more prosaic standard of ability in earning a livelihood, however, there may be some doubt regarding the degree of McQueen's success. At any rate, his career in Georgia ended abruptly and somewhat disgracefully in