

This little study, which we may call psycho-pathological, serves to increase the slight bibliography which we have on this interesting woman. Although Abraham Valdelomar wrote a succinct novelized biography of her some twenty years ago, "La Mariscala" of Peru still awaits the great biography worthy of her incomparable personality, full of terrible ambitions, but of a unique originality in the American world.

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*El gaucho y sus detractores. Defensa de las tradiciones argentinas. Revindicación del gaucho.* By LUIS C. PINTO. (Buenos Aires: "El Ateneo," 1943. Pp. 213.)

"Like the Cid Campeador, the gaucho will win battles even after death." So writes José Roberto del Río in his prologue to this new study of the gaucho by Luis C. Pinto.

As the sub-title indicates, the book is a "revindication." The author attempts to explain the various uncomplimentary terms applied to the gaucho person in the days before the passing of time turned its romantic glow upon the theme. He describes and evaluates the importance of the gaucho rôle in a pastoral colonial society, in wars for freedom from British invader and from Spanish rule, and in the revolutionary chaos of rival caudillo times.

But the distinctive value of this book is its emphasis upon the spiritual importance of the gaucho theme in Argentine national consciousness. Symbol of Argentine love of liberty, the gaucho lives on, an integral part of the Argentine soul. Any "detraction" of that symbol is "anti-Argentine."

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*Nueva geografía de Costa Rica.* By JORGE LEÓN. (San José, C. R.: Soley y Valverde, 1943. Pp. 182, illus., paper.)

The book opens with a survey of local geographical exploration and study which serves at the same time as an enlivening commentary on the ample bibliography appended to the text. From the rudiments of Rafael Francisco Osejo, the first attempt at a geographical description of Costa Rica, printed in 1833, to the present work, the natural and human features of the land have been the object of study by a long line of foreign and native scientists and travelers, some of them among the most distinguished in the field. Osejo's brief exposition