

*Despertador Americano.* The first book of importance was a collection of decrees of the Constituent Congress of the west which appeared in 1826. The first journal, *El Espectador Imparcial*, began publication in Cosalá in 1827. Other publications, chiefly of a political nature, followed in rapid succession; in fact there could be no better example of the importance of the press in democratic government. This little book seems a highly competent study of this publication activity. It is, however, a history rather than a bibliography, though it may be used as either. Its text tells not only what journals were established but describes their foundation, later fortune, and mentions their chief contributors. But there is also a bibliographical feature: all the imprints mentioned in the text are set in bold-face type, and there are nine facsimiles of title and sample pages.

Certainly this pamphlet will be useful to many Americanists, so it is exceedingly unfortunate that it is so poorly printed and on such perishable paper.

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The Newberry Library.

*La necesidad de una actitud revisionista ante la historia de México en el siglo diecinueve.* By PAUL V. MURRAY. (Mexico: Reprinted from "JUS," No. 61, August, 1943. Pp. 25.)

In this paper, read at the National University of Mexico last year, Paul V. Murray stresses the need for a reëxamination and revaluation of Mexico's nineteenth-century history. He points to a number of aspects which require new treatment, but places the greatest emphasis upon the rôle of the church. He finds that it has been the fashion, particularly among American historians, to regard the post-colonial church in Mexico as an obstacle to economic progress and a center of reaction, largely because the source material consists of the writings of "liberals" and "revolutionaries" rather than "conservatives." Mr. Murray is confident that further research, of an unbiased character, will lead to a complete revision of this viewpoint regarding the church. The other principal fields for historical research (and revision) indicated by the author include: (1) sources of Mexican political ideas early in the nineteenth century; (2) rise of the liberal movement; (3) United States-Mexican relations (studies are needed by Mexican historians, using documents in Mexican archives); (4) Anglo-Mexican relations; (5) relations with Guatemala; (6) development of agrarian institutions (following the suggestive study of Pablo Martínez del Río, *El suplicio del hacendado*); (7) causes for

the decline in the position of industrial, agricultural, and mining labor; (8) biographies of leading figures.

It is doubtful that Mr. Murray's paper will provide a stimulus to mature scholars. The need for historical revisions in the light of new evidence, or a reappraisal of old evidence, may be taken for granted. On the specific questions that he touches, except for the rôle of the church, the author does not tell us precisely what propositions are in need of revision, but rather suggests fields in which further research should be carried on. It is unfortunate, moreover, that Mr. Murray did not raise a question of general importance for the writing of all Latin-American history—viz., whether a disproportionate amount of historical effort has been devoted to the colonial period, with the result that the forging of new institutions in the nineteenth century has been underestimated.

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*Alphabetical List of Medical and Public Health Journals of Latin America.* Compiled by JEANNETTE M. DE LA GARZA. [Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Publication No. 185.] (Washington, D. C.: Pan American Sanitary Bureau, July, 1942. Pp. [3] 60. Paper, apply.)

One of the resolutions adopted by the First International Sanitary Conference (Washington, 1902) pledged the Pan American Sanitary Bureau "to lend its best aid and experience" for the protection of public health throughout the American republics. Data upon public health conditions, experimentation, and progress of the past are mandatory for effective performance of that duty. Medical and public health journals have been the obvious media for the circulation and preservation of such information. This *Alphabetical List* is an excellent commentary upon the success of the Bureau in tracing and acquiring the necessary sources.

The *List* contains slightly more than one thousand title entries, only two hundred of which are not available in the Library of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. In addition to the entries which represent the twenty Latin-American republics, there are a few, thirteen to be exact, for journals published in Canada, the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and the United States. Where obtainable, the address, the subscription price, and the periods of issue are given. Publication of thirty-eight of the journals listed has been suspended; perhaps, temporarily.