

particularly in its capital Monterrey, during the last one hundred fifty years. These have to do largely with literary production; the introduction of the printing press, the establishment of schools, colleges, and a state university; the organization of literary and learned societies; and the gradual spread of interest to art, music, and the theater.

The book is divided into two parts. In the first the material is grouped under five periods, or epochs, as the author calls them: (1) colonial to the end of the struggle for independence, (2) independence to the end of the empire of Maximilian, (3) the post-empire period to the advent of Bernardo Reyes, (4) the times of Bernardo Reyes, and (5) the Revolution of 1910 to the present. A brief summary of the principal political events and the economic development precedes the presentation of the cultural manifestations of each period. In the second part, described as bibliographical notes, an attempt is made to list the writers of each period and their works, the principal newspapers, and the magazines and reviews, with miscellaneous biographical or descriptive data.

Much information of value and interest has been gathered in the preparation of this volume, but the lack of organization in accord with general bibliographical practices makes consultation difficult. The chronological order adopted is not consistently followed, and the bibliographical data is incomplete in many instances. The patient investigator will find, nevertheless, significant and little-known facts about Nuevo León scattered throughout the book.

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*Curso de historia de Cuba.* By FERNANDO PORTUONDO. (Habana: Editorial Minerva, 1946. 2nd ed. Pp. 626. Maps and Illustrations. Cloth.)

Here is a text on Cuban history by an author who has used well the abundant manuscript material in the National and other archives in Habana, as well as the published sources and secondary works. The result is a reliable, comprehensive volume covering almost every phase of Cuba's colonial past. Greatest stress has been laid on the conquest and the movements for independence, but the colonial period proper has not been passed over lightly, about one-third of the volume being devoted to it. As much cannot be said of the treatment of the half-century since independence, only a scant twenty-two pages being given to the Spanish-American War, the first and second American interventions, and the Estrada Palma administration, while the years since 1909 are dismissed with a dot-and-dash, four-page summary. Delicacy

seems to forbid discussion at close range of the disputed years of the Second Republic in a textbook for public school use. The volume is, therefore, a history of colonial Cuba. Considered in that light it is an excellent work.

The unusually balanced view in dealing with the Spanish administration is indicated by the following sections: "Años de buen gobierno bajo el absolutismo," "Medidas [by Captain General Miguel Tacón] para restablecer la moral pública," "Gobierno del General Concha: su idea de moralizar la administración," and "El apogeo de la lucha intelectual de los autonomistas." Dr. Portuondo's outline of the tortuous route to abolition, the beginnings of organized labor, the coolie system, and the mutualistic medical societies, which make accessible the budgeting of medical care to a person of humble means, mark an expansion in subject matter over most other texts.

Although prepared explicitly for students of the Cuban secondary schools, the usefulness of this volume to other readers is not lessened; on the other hand, the aids to study and the exceeding abundance of maps and illustrations make for clarity which the student and scholar alike are seeking.

May future editions also embrace the period of the Republic in an adequate manner.

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*Relaciones históricas de Santo Domingo*. Vol. II. Edited by EMILIO RODRÍGUEZ DEMORIZI. [Archivo General de la Nación, Vol. IV.] (Ciudad Trujillo: Editora Montalvo, 1945. Pp. 507. Paper.)

The Archivo General de la Nación of the Dominican Republic, under the editorship of Dr. Emilio Rodríguez Demorizi, its active director, is issuing a valuable and important series of publications on the history of the republic. This second volume of *Relaciones históricas* comprises documents, principally from the Archivo General de Indias, the transcripts of which were secured by Fray Cipriano de Utrera, who collaborated in the editing, and by Américo Lugo. The documents relate to two episodes in Dominican history: the invasion of Santo Domingo by Francis Drake in 1586; and the devastations of 1605 and 1606.

The first group includes notices regarding the invasion by Drake; the transcript of the investigation of the damage to the cathedral, containing the questionnaire and the testimony of witnesses; and a census of the residents of Santo Domingo who were able to bear arms, indicating the arms and ammunition possessed and the instructions to be followed, with penalties for failure to obey.