

## BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

### GENERAL

*Ensaio de história e crítica.* By A. G. DE ARAÚJO JORGE. [Ministério das Relações Exteriores, Instituto Rio-Branco, Serviço de Publicações.] (Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Nacional, 1948. Pp. 235.)

Short studies, reprinted from the *Jornal do Commercio* and the *Revista Americana*, by the Brazilian diplomat who is general editor of the Itamarati's new edition of the works of the Barão do Rio-Branco. Chapters on the cycle of discoveries; the diplomatic history of French Brazil and Dutch Brazil; Alexandre de Gusmão as a diplomat; the recognition of the Republic; Argentina and the Malvinas; *À margem da história* of Euclides da Cunha; and Ferrero's conception of history.

A. M.

*Histoire de l'Amérique Latine.* By PIERRE CHAUNU. (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1949. Pp. 126. Paper.)

This little volume is Number 361 in the popular French series, *Que sais-je?* As a work of this genre it has much to commend it to the general reader, but little to the serious student. It is readable, and, on the whole, accurate, within the demands imposed by simplification for the popular reader.

Numerous examples of compact, succinct summary of important historical movements within brief compass might be cited. The best, in the reviewer's judgment, is the discussion (pp. 39-55) of Spanish and Portuguese colonial institutions, life and economy. But the author falls into the common fallacy of confusing the precious metals and money with capital. On the other hand, the treatment of national political developments since independence (pp. 91-105) is so brief and sketchy as to give little real impression of the national history of twenty nations.

The statement (p. 21) that the success of the Spaniards in the conquest of America was the result, not of superior technology, but of superior men and *virtu* has an unpleasant sound, even though it appears subsequently that what the author means to point out is the importance of the spirit of individual enterprise among Spanish conquerors. In the comparison of the Spanish and English conquests the familiar, inaccurate clichés appear. The nature of the chapter devoted to Yankee expansion (pp. 117-124) is well indicated by the chapter title: *Le troisième larron: l'Oncle Sam.* Nor does one find the brilliant historical synthesis which has so often characterized this type of writing by French