

*The Horses of the Conquest.* By R. B. CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM, Edited by ROBERT MOORMAN DENHARDT, Illustrations by J. CRAIG SHEPARD. (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949. Pp. xvii, 145. Illustrations, bibliography. \$5.00.)

A re-edition of a work originally published in England in 1930. An attractively presented volume with additional notes by the editor, an expert on the horse in the Americas. Unfortunately, he has not attempted comment on some of the vagaries of the genial author, nor are the pages of the book free of typographical errors. Illustrations are purely decorative rather than instructive. The volume, like all the works of Cunningham Graham, should be read by all who aspire to some acquaintance with the spirit of the various Hispanic-American frontiers.

C. C. G.

*Books of the Brave.* By IRVING A. LEONARD. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1949. Pp. xiii, 381. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

The fascinating thesis of this massive and learned volume is to show how the conquerors of America were steeped in the popular literature of the novels of chivalry—the equivalent for the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries of the movies and detective stories for our modern masses—and how the power of suggestion of these romances led them to transfer to the New World many myths (El Dorado, the Amazons) and to name some of the marvels they encountered in the vocabulary of these fictions. For some years, we Spanish Americans have been indebted to Professor Leonard for the patient and polished scholarship with which he has studied, and continues to study, unpublished and little suspected chapters in our cultural history. He is a citizen of the United States who investigates in the industrious and exemplary tradition of a José Toribio Medina or of a García Icazbalceta. Together with the Argentine scholar, Torre Revello, he was a pioneer in tracing, in such old and forgotten papers as the bills of lading and ships' manifests in the archives of the Casa de Contratación and of American custom houses, the books shipped from the Peninsula which escaped inquisitorial purges and were read in private and convent libraries of Spanish America during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Based on this widespread and intensive research, Leonard's studies serve to establish an image of the intellectual interests of the men of the colonies and to point out new and unexpected channels in the history of ideas and of letters. Some of Leonard's studies, like that devoted to Don Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora, the prototype of the colonial *savant* in the age of the baroque and a living *trivium et quadrivium* of the learning of the era, have already achieved irreplaceable value.