

These parts of the book deal with some fundamental problems of society in all times, and with some of our most urgent present-day problems facing the social scientist who, as a citizen in a democracy, must decide on the role of the university in world affairs in a time of international crisis.

The final chapter on "The Historian and the Problems of the Present" is the most valuable and the most readable in the book. One wishes our statesmen and journalists could read it, particularly the sections on historical analogies and prediction. It would lead to a wider and a wiser use of history as a guide. Thomas Jefferson's conception of history for the education of citizens: "History by apprizing them of the past, will enable them to judge the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men," Professor Gottschalk considers valid, within limits. "Anticipation from historical precedent" can have real practical value in helping us understand certain deep-rooted problems of the present and taking precautions against future contingencies, provided other factors are also calculated and, the "lessons of the past" are taken as clues to possibilities, rather than as prediction.

Another aspect of historical writing treated in this final chapter and throughout the book is of both professional and lay concern. The lay aspect of this was strikingly pointed out in 1944 by the late Carl Becker, one of the author's preceptors, in "What We Didn't Know Hurt Us a Lot" when he pointed to the widespread defeatism, moral confusion and loss of conviction resulting from the relativism of many of the interwar historians, and the popularity of simplistic Marxian and Freudian interpretations of history. Professor Gottschalk performs a valuable service for historians and public alike by reaffirming the value of the "scientific" or "objective" approach to history. This is no naïve optimism: he points out all its pitfalls and its limitations, both in theory and practice. Conversely, he sees the potentialities in history as an art and humanistic endeavor. Certainly he himself takes a pluralistic approach to history, and is more generous to philosophies of history than many historians. Nevertheless, he concludes, the scientific spirit furnishes the best standard for the historian no matter how weak the flesh.

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Who's Who in Latin America, Part V. *Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay*. Edited by RONALD HILTON. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1950. Pp. xvii, 258. \$3.50.)

Here is another volume in a series providing good evidence that Latin-American studies have long since come of age and that solid public

interest may not be too far behind. This satisfyingly extensive and intensive reference work is compactly and clearly printed, with few factual or typographical errors. Each of its readers will, of course, find what seem to him to be significant omissions (the reviewer notes, for example, the omission of F. Molina Campos, José Luis Romero and, on another level, certain *peronista* leaders of long standing and considerable reputation, such as Filomeno Velazco) and there are included a few biographies which death had cut short before this volume went to press (Admiral Sueyro, Ricardo Olivera), but these lapses are minimal and understandable in comparison with the successful execution of this complex editorial task.

The Argentine section contains approximately 1150 biographies; the Uruguayan, 230; the Paraguayan, 140. Each biography, where data are available and applicable, provides information concerning the subject's family (parents, wife, children), education, career (with publications listed in full in most cases), organization membership, decorations, and local addresses. One of the determining factors for inclusion is residence, not nationality. An honest leaven of newcomers has been combined with the familiar names of those whose labors in government, the professions, business, and art—and so often in two or more of these fields—make up the rich, growing culture shared by these three countries.

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BRIEF MENTION

The Rise of the Latin-American Nations: a Concise History. By ARTHUR SCOTT AITON. (Ann Arbor: Ann Arbor Publishers, 1950. Pp. 170. Bibliography. Paper.) Fifty pages cover the story to the achievement of independence; ninety more deal with individual countries or groups of countries (Central America, the Island Republics) since that time; the remainder of the book is devoted to topical aspects of the recent era. Produced by the photo offset process, this volume seems to be a compromise between a syllabus and a full-length textbook.

A Guide to the Microfilm Collection of Early State Records. Compiled and edited by WILLIAM SUMNER JENKINS and LILLIAN A. HAMRICK. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1950. Pp. xxxviii, 762. Paper. \$5.00.) One more monument to the massive productivity of the Library of Congress in aid of scholarship. Records (legislative, executive, and judicial) have been sought in scattered places in addition to official repositories and reduced by microfilm from overwhelming bulk to a few cubic feet. Early records of some states (e.g., Texas, New Mexico) include some Spanish records antedating acquisition of the territory involved by the United States.

Your Government's Records in the National Archives. By THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. Index. Paper.) A re-edition of a booklet first issued in 1945 which summarily describes, as of March, 1950, each of the 266 "record groups" in the National Archives.