

the bull (*acta de la ejecución*), those which at a later time broke extensive dioceses into new divisions or provided for the addition or subtraction of borderline parishes, and those of a strictly official nature. The erection of some of these three dozen dioceses goes far back into the era of the conquest, while that of others is much more recent. The compiler has often been forced far afield in his search for these documents, since the archives of not a few of the Mexican dioceses were destroyed or scattered in troubled years. He is careful, in the best traditions of historical scholarship, to indicate the source or sources from which the materials have been copied.

This is a reference work which should be in every self-respecting Latin-American collection. One may express the hope that the author's example may inspire other such collections from more of the Latin Americas. In the happy event that it does, some day scholars may have a most valuable *Bulario Indico*, whose worth will be truly immense.

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Chile: An Outline of Its Geography, Economics and Politics. By GILBERT J. BUTLAND. (London: Royal Institute of International Affairs, 1951. Pp. 128. Index, bibliography. \$2.50.)

This is the first of a series of individual studies on several Latin-American countries which the Royal Institute of International affairs is planning to publish. It conforms in general approach and high standards to the Institute's earlier work, *The Republics of South America* (London, 1937). It is designed for those who want ". . . a brief analysis of modern tendencies, in regard both to the internal situation and the external relations . . . and the historical basis of present social, economic, and political conditions . . ." (p. vii).

The book adheres closely to its avowed purpose; thus, those who want up-to-the-minute trade and travel information, and either detailed background or current statistical information should look elsewhere. Because the work is not an annual there is no purpose in trying to include the former and because there are only 115 pages of text the latter is clearly impossible. Nevertheless, this reviewer was much impressed with the accurate general picture that the author was able to draw. Mr. Butland, a lecturer in Geography at the University of Birmingham, used his five years of varied experiences in Chile to good advantage.

Four chapters, "Land," "People," "History and Politics," and "Foreign Relations" make up about half the work. They are basic,

factual, well-compressed and will be useful for the non-expert. Even the expert probably will not be inclined to quibble with the simplifications unless, perhaps, it be the discussion of racial backgrounds. To mention just one point: Chilean ethnologists distinguish between the Mapuche and Araucanian Indians, as the author does not.

The chapter on "General Economic and Social Conditions" comprises the other half of the text. It will probably prove to be the most useful and, if one is so inclined, the most controversial. The facts of life in Chile are bluntly set forth in such sentences as ". . . the appalling poverty, the malnutrition, the illiteracy, the semi-servile conditions of the agricultural community which still comprises 40 per cent of Chile's population, form one of the most favorable breeding grounds for Communism in the continent" (p. 65).

This is not the author's main thesis. In fact his story of the Chilean government's struggle toward industrialization and its heroic attempts to strengthen the general economy is optimistically told, but it is on his mind because he comes back to it again (p. 70) and again (p. 88). It is unfortunate that limitations of space do not make it possible for him to explain why such conditions continue to exist or to show their relationship to the foot-dragging progress towards those goals which both the author and this reviewer regard as highly desirable.

The story of Chile's external trade picture, including that of all-important copper, is fairly presented, although the author cannot give an entirely accurate portrayal because he does not attempt to explain the government's control system both with respect to licensing and the various rates of exchange that are fixed for various transactions. This is justifiably omitted from a basic book.

The maps, charts, and glossary scattered throughout the book and in the appendix are well done and useful, but the bibliography is of little value. It is not thorough, not discussed, and quite uneven as to calibre.

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La enseñanza de la historia en la Argentina. By LEONCIO GIANELLO. (Mexico City: Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, 1951. Pp. 121. Paper. \$15.00 m/Mex.)

La enseñanza de la historia en Venezuela. By PEDRO TOMÁS and J. M. SISO MARTÍNEZ. (Mexico City: Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, 1951. Pp. 225. Paper. \$20.00 Mex.)

Two previous volumes of this series have been reviewed in preceding issues of this REVIEW, so that it should now be possible to begin