

thor refers frequently to the Mexican work which gives the second version but does not mention this moderating statement. Truth to tell, both accounts may well have been exaggerations.

In short your reviewer has misgivings. He feels that readers do well to suspect historical pictures presented so exclusively in scarlets, purples and blacks. It may be unfortunate but it is true that most of the incidents historians are called on to portray require more use of pinks, lavenders and greys.

W. H. CALLCOTT

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Mariño y la independencia de Venezuela. El libertador de Oriente. By C. PARRA PEREZ. Madrid, 1954. Ediciones Cultura Hispánica. Pp. xliv, 529. 180 pesetas.

Primera parte de una extensa biografía de Santiago Mariño, que abarca el estudio de sus ascendientes, de su nacimiento, infancia, y educación, y de sus cuatro primeros años de servicios (1810-1814) a la causa de la independencia venezolana. Detallada narración de la expedición de Chacachacare, de la conquista del Oriente venezolano por Mariño, de la expedición al Oeste que culmina con el contacto de sus fuerzas con las de Bolívar y la victoria de ambos sobre Boves en Bocachica, del regreso de Mariño a Oriente y su salida del país, y de la victoria y muerte de Boves en Urica. Original enfoque del problema de las relaciones entre Mariño y Bolívar, cuidado análisis de la posición inglesa respecto a la guerra civil venezolana, cuyo carácter de tal revela el autor (en estos años, los guerreros de ambos bandos en Venezuela son casi totalmente criollos), exponiendo también las consecuencias de aquella en el orden demográfico y social. Exámen crítico de la bibliografía y numerosas fuentes (publicadas e inéditas) que se utilizan, y de las que se reproducen fragmentos en el texto de la obra; falta todo otro aparato crítico, y el lacónico índice de capítulos es poco expresivo y útil. Mapa de las campañas de 1813-1814, bueno; varias ilustraciones. El libro hace cobrar

gran relieve a Mariño como exponente del espíritu autónomo, aunque no separatista, del oriente venezolano.

GUILLELMO CESPEDES

Sevilla

La revolución de la intendencia de La Paz en el virreinato del Río de la Plata. By MANUEL M. PINTO. La Paz, 1953. *Documentos para la historia de la Revolución de 1809*, edited by CARLOS PONCE SANGINES and RAUL ALFONSO GARCIA.

After a brief survey relating the colonial history of the Intendencia of La Paz to the over-all history of the Audiencia of Charcas and the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, the author devotes most of the 261 pages of text to the 1809 revolution against Spain in the intendencia of La Paz. Dr. Pinto contends that the object of this revolt was to set up a democratic structure not for Upper Peru alone, but for all America, a statement somewhat at odds with his contention that the revolutionaries wanted to construct a new social system by extracting from the essence of the land and the emotion of the race an image of national style. The 281 pages of unedited documents in the appendix date from 1805 to 1809 but nearly all of them are for 1809. (J. P. H.)

AFTER 1830

GENERAL

Breve historia del modernismo. By MAX HENRIQUEZ URENA. Mexico-Buenos Aires, 1954. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 544. \$4.20 U. S.

Modernismo is considered to be the first genuinely Spanish American contribution to world literature. A reaction against Romanticism, it was a very complex movement, born of a variety of foreign influences and indigenous elements, and its chief exponents in poetry and prose quickly developed a characteristic style at once cosmopolitan and lyrical. This is the first comprehensive history of the movement,

which lasted from ca. 1885 to 1910. The author, one of Latin America's leading literary historians, grew up during the last years of *modernismo* and was acquainted with most of its poets and prose writers. His scholarly, eminently readable study follows a chronological and geographical order, as it examines the chief *modernistas* and their work, and in an unobtrusive way the author clarifies many of the controversies which have arisen as to dates, influences and originality. This is certainly one of the outstanding books of the year in its field, and it will remain a standard work for a long time to come.

ROBERT G. MEAD, JR.

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Economic Survey of Latin America, 1953. Prepared by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America. New York, 1954. United Nations Department of Economic Affairs. Charts. Tables. Pp. xvi, 246. \$2.50.

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History. Its Creation, Development and Current Program, 1929-1954. Mexico City, 1954. Pan American Institute of Geography and History. Charts. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 62, xlv.

A useful administrative report which includes a record of Institute achievements during its first quarter century of life, texts of official documents on its establishment and present relationship to the Organization of American States, and a list of its publications (pp. xxv-xxxix). (L. H.)

Prelude to Point Four. American Technical Missions Overseas, 1838-1938. By MERLE CURTI and KENDALL BIRR. Madison, 1954. The University of Wisconsin Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 284.

Over half of this historical survey of official United States missions "which were designed to export useful knowledge to other countries" during the century 1838-1938 deals with Hispanic

America. There are separate chapters on the islands of Cuba and Santo Domingo, while technical missions to all parts of Hispanic America occupy substantial portions of an introductory chapter (the first five missions described all went to South America, although four of them gave no technical aid to the countries visited), a general chapter on the years 1912-1929, a chapter on financial missions, and a chapter on public health and education.

The authors have brought together from an extensive array of printed materials and a much narrower array of archival sources a large number of facts about United States-Hispanic American relations that either are not known or have not been considered in the context of "cultural interchange" by most Hispanic Americanists. The authors state that they are not regional specialists and that the material is presented from the United States point of view. This lessens, somewhat, one's surprise at finding the expeditions led by Lts. T. J. Page and W. L. Herndon to the Plata and Amazon River systems, or even the Marine occupation of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, being included as part of a prelude to a principal movement to which they have neither a structural nor an emotional relationship.

It should be emphasized that the authors have engaged in an exploratory work on a general scale. The questions they set out to answer are good ones and need answering. They have produced some convincing answers and should the reader with an intensive knowledge of a region or topic find himself getting overly critical, let him ask himself the questions propounded by the authors and try to provide the answers. (J. P. H.)

ARGENTINA

Those Perplexing Argentines. By JAMES BRUCE. New York, 1953. Longmans, Green. Index. Pp. x, 362. \$5.00.

For the general reader seeking a simply told account in anecdotal style with short sentences and paragraphs,