

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.

University of Connecticut

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,

this is an excellent book. Even the format is pleasing. More important, Mr. Bruce demonstrates that he kept his eyes and ears open while in Argentina and has read a lot on the country. Unfortunately he also demonstrates that his Spanish is miserable.

For the scholar who has kept up with events in Argentina there is little new in the book. Its main strength lies in its many piquant observations of life in Argentina today, especially with regard to the political shenanigans Bruce witnessed. Indeed, the best chapter is the one on Argentine politics. Unfortunately, Bruce gives us little of his own role in this drama—perhaps twenty years from now a master's thesis will be written on it. It must be said to Bruce's credit that he was sent down to be a friend of Perón, but refused to be fooled by either the *Uder* or his charming wife.

Very few Argentines are willing to take an honest look at themselves. Ex-ambassador Bruce does it for them. He tears them apart and puts them together again. Then, as a typical American, he almost naively states that if we got to know each other, we could get along.

Fritz L. Hoffman

University of Colorado

BRAZIL

The Bagbys of Brazil. By HELEN BAGBY HARRISON. Nashville, 1954. Broadman Press. Illustrations. Pp. 159. \$1.75.

Sympathetic family account of the work of Dr. and Mrs. William B. Bagby as Baptist missionaries in Brazil. (L. H.)

A terre e a gente (1871). By OSCAR CANSTATT. Translated by EDUARDO DE LIMA CASTRO. Rio de Janeiro, 1954. Irmãos Pongetti Editores. Illustrations. Pp. 414.

This volume, faithful to the German tradition of thoroughness in descriptive detail, provides an ample view of imperial Brazil in the period immediately following the termination of the war

with Paraguay. After an account of the flora and fauna and early history of Brazil, the author gives us the impressions of his travels from Pernambuco to Rio Grande do Sul. Statistics are furnished concerning industrial and commercial production and navigation. The author is perhaps most interesting when he describes the German colonization in southern Brazil, at which point he reveals a Teutonic bias. A defect of the work is a lack of synthesis and imaginative speculation on the developing Brazilian civilization. The translator is to be commended for having made this hitherto largely inaccessible document available to greatly increased numbers of readers.

THOMAS W. PALMER, JR.

Boston University

Historia da literatura brasileira. By JOSE VERISSIMO. Rio de Janeiro, 1954. José Olympio Editora. Coleção Documentos Brasileiros, 74. 3rd edition. Pp. 359.

It is as much a comment upon the dormant state of Brazilian literary studies as upon the quality of Verissimo's history that, forty years after its first appearance, it and the even earlier work of Silvio Romero are still basic sources for all scholars. Verissimo's approach is that of a book review rather than that of a literary critic. He presents a series of brief sketches of the leading authors and evaluations of their work, with little attempt at synthesis or at the development of principles of judgment. He has been criticized for a lack of appreciation of poetry; and yet, if it is difficult to understand his high regard for Porto Alegre's *Colombo* or the relative neglect of his contemporaries the Parnasians, in general time has confirmed his opinions. It is regrettable that an important reference tool should have no index. It is still more regrettable that the present edition should be marred by an unpardonable number of misprints, some of them so bad as to alter the meaning of the text.

R. E. DIMMICK

Washington, D. C.