

however, the author is concerned with poetry for what it can tell us about the poet as a human being. For this reason much of his study is devoted to the analysis of themes and moods and relating them to crucial moments in the poet's life. Serpa is able by this method to throw light on some dark places in Oliveira's biography, but he leaves unanswered the question of the poet's debt to his Brazilian contemporaries, or their indebtedness to him, and fails to provide a satisfactory evaluation of Oliveira in the Parnasian movement as a whole. Phocion Serpa has written a book rich in insights but not the definitive study Alberto de Oliveira's poetry deserves and may one day receive.

DANIEL WOGAN

Tulane University

Alguns homens do meu tempo (memórias e impressões). 1st series. By J. DE CASTRO NUNES. Preface by OCTAVIO TARQUINIO DE SOUSA. Rio de Janeiro, 1957. Livraria José Olympio Editôra. Coleção Documentos Brasileiros, 97. Pp. 251. Paper.

This is a collection of fourteen essays—some previously published—by a well-known lawyer and writer on legal subjects. Two-thirds of the essays concern prominent lawyers, jurists, and politicians of the early decades of the twentieth century. The rest are brief sketches of Tobias Monteiro, writer; Eduardo Couture, Uruguayan law professor; Otávio Carneiro, engineer, single-taxer, and notable prefect of Niterói; Miguel Couto, physician; and the author's father, a slaveholding abolitionist. Somewhat similar to Alfredo Valladão's recent *Vultos nacionais* (reviewed in *HAHR*, XXXVI, 574-575), José de Castro Nunes' book emphasizes the habits, thoughts, and triumphs of some of his close friends, and his relations with them. Some of the essays—particularly those on Rui Barbosa, Nilo Peçanha, and Pedro Lessa—contain valuable insights into the characters and actions of the sub-

jects. Frequently, however, the text tends to become overburdened with trivia and tiresome digressions.

Although addressed to a limited audience, this volume makes small but useful contributions to the political and constitutional history of the period covered. The author promises a second series.

DAURIL ALDEN

University of California
Berkeley

Contribuição ao estudo da economia mineira. By ATHOS DE LEMOS RACHE. Rio de Janeiro, n.d., Livraria José Olympio Editôra. Maps. Tables. Illustrations. Pp. xii, 289. Paper.

Athos de Lemos Rache has written a book which begins as a brief economic history of the state of Minas Gerais. There follows a survey of the agricultural, mineral, and industrial resources of the area. The author indicates that in recent decades Minas Gerais has stagnated relative to São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and other states. His analysis of the mineral resources of the state leads him to conclude that the solution to the stagnation is the establishment of a major steel mill in the middle Rio Doce valley. He suggests Ipatinga as a likely location. Iron ore from Itabira and coal from Santa Catarina would be used. The author has gone into considerable detail in an effort to compare the likely cost of the Rio Doce plant with cost at alternative locations.

Experts on economic aid to underdeveloped countries have been prone of late to complain that one of their chief difficulties is the lack of worthwhile projects. Here is a carefully-done, ready-made study which should help to fill the gap.

WENDELL GORDON

University of Texas

A demografia na evolução do Brasil. By AGUINALDO DIAS URUGUAY. Introductions by DANTON TEIXEIRA and MONT 'ALVERNE. Rio de Janeiro,