

Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 342. Cloth. \$5.95.

William Hickling Prescott produced six historical works, of which two—*Conquest of Mexico* and *Conquest of Peru*—are still in print. He dealt with four American publishers, two of whom—Little, Brown and Harper's—are still in business. In England he was published by Bentley and pirated by Routledge.

Prescott and His Publishers describes in fascinating detail the rôles Prescott played as he peered over the shoulder of one publisher after another. It illuminates the publishing scene of the mid-nineteenth century and much of the literary landscape as well.

Prescott supervised each phase of publication with an assiduousness that would unnerve a publisher of today. He financed and supervised the typesetting, did much of the editing and proofreading, personally applied for his own copyrights, arranged his own contracts and foreign editions, spread review copies from Boston to Charleston. In his view, these things were done by him because publishing was a "slippery trade." Yet his devotion to detail was more out of pleasure than distrust, for he gave himself away in one delightful letter to Harper's when he wrote, "As I have got beyond . . . sending and receiving love-letters, I find the most agreeable part of my correspondence is [of late with] Publishers." (p. 15)

In addition to a good index, this book contains notes, bibliography, and an appendix which includes the complete text of Prescott's publication contracts. *Prescott and His Publishers* should be useful to scholars, interesting to authors, and to publishers a delight.

ROBERT CROWELL

New York City

Las relaciones humanas en la administración pública mexicana. By ANTONIO GARCÍA VALENCIA. Mexico City, 1958. Editorial Porrúa. Appendices. Pp. 210. Paper.

While in Spain and in most Spanish-American countries the study of public

administration is still carried on largely in the traditional style of legal analysis, Mexican students of public administration—as in some other areas of the social sciences—are pioneering in the application of more modern, and more fruitful, approaches. Professor García Valencia, following in the footsteps of Lucio Mendieta y Núñez, his illustrious compatriot, seeks to apply the insights and criteria of social psychology (such as Erich Fromm's), of general sociology (such as Sorokin's), and of the latest American general administrative theories (such as Herbert Simon's). But he is also thoroughly at home in empirical research, including sociometry and sociodrama. The author first surveys the record of public administration in Mexico before and after the Spanish conquest; he argues that the still widespread habit of "fiscal fraud" is largely a residue of the colonial period (p. 41). He then proceeds to analyze the development of public administration in Mexico in the period of independence. The heart of the book is Chapter VIII, in which he points to the salient problems of Mexican administration today. The lack of a merit system and "servilismo" (pp. 107-113) appear to him among the most pressing problems to be solved. As a principal specific solution, he suggests a considerable expansion of social welfare of all types within the public service, so as to provide the civil servant with more security, dignity, and independence.

WILLIAM EBENSTEIN

Princeton University

Relatos y comentarios sobre temas de historia venezolana. By HECTOR GARCÍA CHUECOS. Caracas, 1957. Imprenta Nacional. Prologue. Pp. 412. Paper.

"The country is above all the history of the country," Doctor García Chuecos is fond of saying, and assuredly no one has labored more zealously to preserve and make known the past of Venezuela. He has worked as director of the national archives, writer, editor, and teacher. His special field has been the colonial period, although