

Buried Gold & Anacondas. By ROLF BLOMBERG. Translated by F. H. LYON. New York, 1959. Thomas Nelson & Sons. Maps. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 144. Cloth. \$5.00.

Blomberg is a professional writer who presents "adventure" in a far more accurate manner than most of this type of story now flooding the book market. His material is closer to the truth, mentions the scientific facts about "big" snakes and jungle dangers, and does not describe all Indians as savages lurking behind trees ready to kill the intruder. However, the book, first published in Swedish in 1955, is written for pure enjoyment as adventure, nothing more.

Anyone who has traveled in the interior of Ecuador hears of the famous lost treasure of Llanganati, supposedly buried somewhere in the high Andean peaks or llanos east of Latacunga. Blomberg has looked up all the accounts of other expeditions, the Spanish chronicler's information about Inca treasure, reproduced the early 19th century map of the Spanish botanist Guzmán, and tells how each expedition got started, failed to find the treasure, and often had tragic outcome. Mainly, he describes his experiences on several Llanganati expeditions.

The second half of the book deals with the problems of going into southeastern Colombia on the Putumayo, Caquetá, San Miguel and other rivers and their tributaries, meeting the Cofán Indians, and the experiences encountered while making a commercial movie entitled, "Anacondas," of the large water snakes of the tropical forest.

Illustrations throughout are typical of adventure books, showing rapids and mountain peaks, the explorers, local people, life in the interior, large snakes, animals, Indians, etc. The black and whites are good but the color reproductions are very poor.

CLIFFORD EVANS

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The Caribbean: British, Dutch, French, United States. Ed. by A. CURTIS

WILGUS. Gainesville, 1958. University of Florida Press. Caribbean Conference Series, Series One, Volume VIII. Foreword by J. WAYNE REITZ. Map. Tables. Index. Pp. xix, 331. Cloth. \$5.50.

The colonial Caribbean—now rapidly becoming the ex-colonial Caribbean—is one of the neglected areas of the western world. Probably the majority of the American people do not even know that fragments of four empires, British, Dutch, French and American, still exist in this hemisphere, stretching in a great arc of islands eastward from Cuba and ending in the jungles of Surinam and the Guianas.

The University of Florida and the international organization known as the Caribbean Commission have taken the welfare of these territories seriously. Eight Caribbean Conferences have been held in Gainesville in the attempt to assemble and discuss pertinent information about these non-sovereign lands to the South. This work, a symposium by 23 qualified specialists, represents the 1957 Conference. It is rich in information and, like most symposiums, a bit dull in spots, but well worth the effort of reading for those who want to know the contemporary Caribbean scene. It summarizes both economic and political facts.

The most striking revelation in these pages is that of the tremendous growth of self-government in the area since World War II. In the European controlled territories power is rapidly passing from the white aristocracy to the colored masses. Puerto Rico, predominantly white, has already achieved a status within the American political system more favorable than most states. The colored trade union leaders who were weak and persecuted in the 1930s are now the chief rulers of the French, British and Dutch possessions. The standard of living, still very low by United States' standards, is rapidly improving.

Paralleling this hopeful trend, however, is another trend which may undo most of the progress. Too many people are being born and kept alive for the