

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

United States National Museum

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

islands to hold. Where will they go? New York City is taking Puerto Rico's surplus. London is uneasy about Jamaica's surplus. As one of the contributors to this volume suggests, there seems to be no way out except "a sustained educational effort" for family planning.

PAUL BLANSHARD

Washington, D. C.

Central America. The Crisis and the Challenge. By JOHN D. MARTZ. Chapel Hill, 1959. University of North Carolina Press. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 356. Cloth. \$7.50.

Since World War II Central America has been the scene of events of great significance to the United States which with the possible exception of the Guatemalan revolution and its aftermath are not well-known in this country. This book is an attempt to fill that gap. In general introductory and concluding sections and separate chapters devoted to each of the five Central American countries and Panama it discusses recent events in that area with particular reference to policies followed by the United States.

The book is a reportorial account that supplies the most convenient account of contemporary Central America in English. It describes and relates, often without identifying sources of information, but it does not analyse and explain. Choice of subject matter, allocation of space, and emphasis appear to have been determined by personal interest rather than by intent to identify basic problems. There is no discernible point of view, and the conclusions contain nothing fresher than criticism of United States coddling of dictators such as Somoza, intervention in support of Castillo Armas in Guatemala, and mishandling of relations with Panama on the bases question and during the Suez crisis. No attempt is made, for example, to evaluate on a regional basis the significance of the emergence of organized labor as an active force in national politics.

Much of what the author may have intended to convey is lost in a writing style of which the following paragraph is a representative example:

Until recent years, probably no Central American state was wasting its natural potentialities as shamelessly as Nicaragua. Following its independence from Spain in 1821, nothing happened. Occasional internal strife and dissolute government helped contribute to general stagnation. The state of affairs was deplorable. Citizens lived uncertainly, and only the poorest illiterate peasants escaped political insecurity. They were presented, at the same time, with an oppressive and sometimes losing battle for subsistence and survival.

WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH

Tulane University

Coffee in Latin America. Productivity Problems and Future Prospects. I Colombia and El Salvador. By UNITED NATIONS. FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION. New York, 1958. Columbia University Press. Tables. Figures. Diagrams. Annexes. Maps. Pp. xi, 144. Paper. \$1.75.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization present here the first of their joint studies in Latin America. Instructed to study "in specified areas where coffee is the main source of income, those economic and technical aspects of coffee production which exert the greatest influence on economic development," ECLA and FAO selected three areas in Latin America for intensive study: Colombia (the principal mild coffee producer and representative of coffee-growing on small farms); El Salvador where utilization of tractors in coffee growing is most intensive; and the State of São Paulo.

Although a part of this volume is best read by the trained economist, most of it is intelligible to any interested reader. It is based upon much fresh data of assessed reliability and is the clearest, fullest, and most accu-