

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-

rate description available of the coffee industry in these areas today.

ROBERT C. BEYER

University of Miami

*The Cruise of the Portsmouth, 1845-1847. A Sailor's View of the Naval Conquest of California.* By JOSEPH T. DOWNEY. Edited by HOWARD LAMAR. New Haven, 1958. Yale University Library. Preface by ARCHIBALD HANNA, JR. Editor's Introduction. Sketch. Index. Pp. xxi, 246. Cloth. \$6.00.

Appearing almost simultaneously with Fred B. Rogers' *Montgomery and the Portsmouth*, the two volumes form a unit of new material on the United States Pacific Fleet, with emphasis on the Mexican War period. In 1955 a manuscript turned up, proving to be the interesting sea journal of Ordinary Seaman Joseph T. Downey, USN, writing under the pseudonym Fore Peak. Uniqueness results from the comments being those of a man who sailed before the mast, rather than the usual officer's narrative.

Basically the book is made up of "sea stories" or sailors' yarns. Identity of participants was purposely masked by the writer, sometimes so well as to baffle the modern editor. Downey's work is punctuated by occasional attempts at poetry, and stories follow generally the itinerary of the cruise. Stops at Rio de Janeiro, Valparaiso, Callao, Hawaii, Acapulco, Mansinilla (*sic*), and Mazatlán are prelude to participation in the occupation of northern California and reconquest of southern California as foot soldiers with General Kearny and Commodore Stockton.

Editorial notes are generally satisfactory, while maps and a color illustration enhance the treatment.

DONALD C. CUTTER

University of Southern California

*Cultural Surveys of Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras.* By RICHARD N. ADAMS. Washington,

D. C., 1957. Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Scientific Publications, 33. Appendices. Maps. Tables. Graphs. References. Pp. iii, 669. Paper.

Adams' study of Central America is one of the best surveys in the field of cultural anthropology. The author outlines the "skeletons" of little known cultures in Central America by combining census material with new ethnographic data obtained through surveys. Investigation focused on rural mestizo culture which Adams labels as "Spanish-American countryman culture."

The primary purpose of the Central American surveys is to provide a regional background for workers in programs of public health, public works, and agriculture. Adams initiated the survey while working as a consultant to the World Health Organization in Central America in 1953 when he found that the paucity of systematic knowledge of that area was a severe handicap to applied work. He also designed his area study as a supplement to the anthropological community study permitting the anthropologist to generalize on the extent to which a given community represents a culture area. The surveys provide a valuable aid for research and applied anthropology in the Central American area. A similar survey of Mexico would be useful.

This volume differs from the usual survey in two major respects: 1) It develops ethnographic survey techniques instead of relying on sociological methods; 2) The author points out the limitations of the survey method which, at best, can yield only a superficial view of culture.

These surveys covered 30 to 50 towns in each of the five countries included in the volume. Three to five hours was the average amount of time allowed for collection of data in each community. The author specifies that no profound insight into local culture could be obtained in such short time. Sections on population, languages, agriculture, transportation, commerce, and other aspects of overt culture are far superior to the sketchy material on covert cul-