

The style, too, is somewhat on the dull side.

In sum, pupils, students, and prospective tourists of Bolivia will enjoy the photography more than the text.

*Doctor in Bolivia.* By HERMAN ERIC MAUTNER. Philadelphia, 1960. Chilton Company. Pp. 331. \$5.95.

This is the story of a young German refugee doctor who migrated to Bolivia to practice medicine in the country's isolated lowlands. With honesty, modesty, and color he relates his multifold experiences. The book much resembles the reminiscences of Dr. Howard Joseph Peck, which have become best sellers. Yet it lacks the punch, dry humor, and moving style of Peck.

The German doctor, ill-equipped for foreign adventures, either marvels at or is utterly dejected by Bolivia. He wants to comprehend it—even falls in love with native girls—but cannot do it. There is no pioneer spirit within him. He quits, goes to New York.

One basic defect of the doctor—probably the reason why he fails to understand Bolivia—is a narrow education in the social sciences. He is the product of a pre-War German medical education with its immediate specialization, devoid of the humanities and social sciences. Through his book one can detect an utter ignorance of Bolivian history and a lack of desire to learn it during his endless evenings in the villages.

The Mautner story is written with a great honesty. The doctor refuses to admit that some of the things he did, such as defying the witch doctor, were true heroism. His humility and thoughtfulness make this an extraordinary book about Bolivia.

*La geopolítica chilena y la guerra del Pacífico. Nuevos datos para la historia.* By EDGAR OBLITAS F. La Paz, 1959. Editorial Kollasuyo. Pp. 38. Paper.

This monograph attempts to sketch the origins of the Peruvian-Bolivian Alliance of February 6, 1873, which con-

stituted a direct cause of the War of the Pacific. It also portrays the various diplomatic pressures which were initiated to bring Argentina into the alliance.

Author Oblitas claims that Bolivian President Agustín Morales was the real father of the alliance. He tries to reinterpret Morales and make him one of the heroes of Bolivian history. He states that Morales' nephew, Federico Lafaye, who assassinated his uncle, was paid by Chile to perpetrate the crime. He believes that the death of Morales gave Chile the courage to attack Bolivia. Although scattered documents are mentioned, no adequate footnotes are provided to substantiate this reinterpretation, and the bibliography fails to show new primary source materials. There is no doubt, however, that Mr. Oblitas presents a thesis which merits further research. His own tone is far too biased.

*Quién es quién en Bolivia.* La Paz, 1959. Editores Quién es Quién en Bolivia. Pp. x, 338.

Any kind of guide to Bolivia is welcome. Few countries in Latin America match Bolivia in research problems, due to an astounding difficulty in the acquisition of data.

The *Quién es quién* of Bolivia provides one more tool in the sparsely filled shelf of Bolivian bibliographic guides. The work may be as complete as such works can get, but the first rate Bolivian historians as Gunnar Mendoza and Guillermo Ovando Sanz are missing from the pages.

The editing is defective and many sketched persons have frightfully padded their records. One man, of whom I have never heard, occupies twelve pages, citing far over 500 honors including honorary member of Boys Town, honorary ambassador to Texas, and honorary member of the Continental Confederation of adopted Indians. He cites honors from all countries including Liechtenstein.

A good majority of the sketches, however, are modest and accurate. I

repeat, it is a fairly helpful tool for modern Bolivian research.

*Un ensayo sobre la revolución boliviana del 9 de abril de 1952.* By RICARDO QUIROGA C. Cochabamba, [1959]. Editorial Thunupa Ltda. Pp. 216. Paper.

The bibliography of the Bolivian national revolution is rapidly growing. Much of it ranges from fair to utterly useless, and this new book adds nothing to this expanding bibliography. It sketches in an elementary outline the course of the revolution, repeating every single cliché. Everything is black or white. Those against the revolution and past governments are crooks, tyrants, stooges of Wall Street, etc. The revolutionaries are true patriots, saviors, thoroughly honest servants of the depressed people, and so forth.

The Quiroga treaty contains gross exaggerations such as blaming President Enrique Peñaranda for the massacre of "thousands" of workers. This is a "thousand-times" exaggeration, although I do not want to apologize for Peñaranda's inept labor policy.

It is also a badly printed work, with practically all foreign names misspelled. The Quiroga book proves one thing: the MNR is rapidly losing theoreticians. The old intellectual leaders, such as the late Carlos Montenegro, with their powerful, beautiful, intelligent, and sharp pens are not being replaced. The party is becoming stale.

*Alcides Argüedas.* By FAUSTO REINAGA. La Paz, 1960. Talleres Gráficos Gutenberg. Pp. 38. Paper.

Alcides Argüedas, Bolivia's most celebrated historian, who died in 1946, continues to be damned by Bolivians. The whipping of Argüedas—a true and honest patriot—continues at an increasing rate. Now it is Fausto Reinaga, Bolivia's newest superdemagogue, who unloads his hateful pen at Alcides Argüedas.

Argüedas was not a true historian and scholar, but he was a potent social

scientist who loved his Bolivia and who believed that the way to reform the country was to expose the truth. His social novels indirectly inspired the great social revolution of 1952.

Reinaga adds insult to insult. His writings in many other countries would be libelous. He even accuses Argüedas of failing to cooperate in 1926 in a publication of a tribute to Romain Rolland. Then he states that Argüedas is not listed among the contributors because he was "un pobre diábolito (p. 28)." Reinaga ends saying "Toda la producción de Argüedas, la obra en conjunto es inútil. No sirvió ayer, no sirve hoy, y menos servirá en el futuro." Mr. Reinaga has given us not one iota of constructive criticism. *No sé donde hay diábolos pobres pero hay muchos diábolos malos!*

*Facetas del intelecto boliviano.* By HUMBERTO VÁZQUEZ-MACHICADO. Oruro, 1958. Universidad Técnica de Oruro. Departamento de Extensión Cultural. Sección Publicaciones. Colección Cultural. No. 3. Pp. 362. Paper.

Humberto Vázquez-Machicado was Bolivia's best historian of this century. He wrote in the tradition of the great Gabriel René-Moreno, who came from the same town as Vázquez-Machicado, Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The recent death of the *cruceño*, Don Humberto, has deprived Bolivia of a true scholar. Vázquez-Machicado was a prolific writer without sacrificing quality. And dead for over two years, his publications continue to appear at an astounding rate.

This book was in press when he died. It is a collection of his diverse essays dealing with multiple topics, from Krause to José Ballivián; from Bolivian folklore to a discussion of the *novela picaresca* in colonial Potosí; from the *Pongueaje* to Pedro Domingo Murillo. Each essay is a model of sound and interesting research based on original documents. It further enhances the reputation of the late Humberto Vázquez-Machicado.