

THE PLATA REGION

Misiones diplomáticas sobre límites (1829-1852). By ALBERTO REYES THEVENET. Montevideo, 1959. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. Pp. 73. Paper.

This is the second volume of a study alleging that the Treaty of San Ildefonso (1777) set the just boundary between Brazil and Uruguay at the Rio Ibicuí. If Brazil has expanded further, it has been through fraud, intimidation, and the connivance of Argentina. A secondary theme running through the second volume is that neither traditional party, *blancos* or *colorados*, can be fairly accused of surrendering to Brazilian imperialism.

Space does not permit discussing the merits of the main theses. However, this writer agrees that Professor Charles E. Nowell's estimate of the first volume is applicable to both, "a useful résumé of the documentary evidence on the subject." (HAHR, XXXVII, 109) One might add that there are some interesting maps in this book, and that the author is beating a dead horse.

JOSÉ C. CANALES

Fresno State College

Debate parlamentario sobre la Ley Avellaneda. Introduction by NORBERTO RODRÍGUEZ BUSTAMANTE. Buenos Aires, 1959. Universidad de Buenos Aires. Pp. 306. Paper.

The timely publication by the University of Buenos Aires of the parliamentary debates of 1883-1885 which formulated Argentina's first university legislation coincided with the reconsideration of university problems by the national congress. Here are collected the important discussions from both houses relating to the composition of the faculties, the selection and dismissal of professors, the autonomy of universities, the privileges of conferring degrees, and the control of university finances. Rodríguez Bustamante has provided a meaningful analysis of the debates; unfortunately, his résumé of the history of

the universities of Córdoba and Buenos Aires to 1885 is too abridged to be of much value.

JAMES R. SCOBIE

University of California, Berkeley

Carlos Morel, precursor del arte argentino. By AGUSTÍN MATIENZO. Buenos Aires, 1959. Emecé Editores. Illustrations. Pp. 97, 1. Paper.

Matienzo, the great-grand nephew of Carlos Morel, has written a short biography of this romantic painter, and supplied his text with a carefully prepared catalogue of Morel's known works (divided into historical, religious, *costumbrista* and landscape paintings, portraits, miniatures, and lithographs). The plates (in black and white and color—the latter mostly of secondary quality) include the full range of Morel's talents, as well as photographic portraits of the artist in later life and of his devoted sister, who aided him his last, clouded years. Born in Buenos Aires in 1813 (died 1894), Carlos Morel was one of the early masters of the local scene, reinforcing the nationalist enthusiasms of the period. His lithographs, like the slightly earlier ones of Linati in Mexico, are valuable records of mid-century life and costumes of the people—notably the *gaucho*. Sr. Matienzo's text attempts to relate Morel to his cultural ambience; the staccato paragraphing of this meticulously researched material makes the presentation somewhat discontinuous. Alfredo González Garaño has provided a short preface.

JOSEPH BAIRD, JR.

University of California, Davis

BRAZIL

Memórias póstumas de Brás Cubas. By MACHADO DE ASSIS. Rio de Janeiro, 1960. Ministério da Educação e Cultura. Pp. 304. Paper. Cr. 200,00.

This is a critical edition of a modern classic (1st ed., 1880) by a Brazilian novelist whose works alone have stimulated many a reader to learn Portu-