

York right after World War I. The reviewer found of particular interest a description of his work as a shivering cargo-handler on Gotham's docks. Amusing, though perhaps a bit grim, is his description of his and his brother's efforts to get along with a single pair of pants as they went to work alternately on night and day shifts.

Some of the later essays, when he does not allow Communist propaganda to get in the way, are interesting and well done and testify to Colón's ability as an essayist and raconteur. Especially recommended are his discussions of singing in the shower, borrowing books, and "How to Know the Puerto Ricans."

Whatever its weaknesses, this book is of interest to those who want to get some worthwhile insights into the thinking and the living conditions of the growing Puerto Rican population on the mainland.

ROBERT J. ALEXANDER

Rutgers University

*The Girl from Puerto Rico.* By HILA COLMAN. New York, 1961. William Morrow & Company. Pp. 222. \$2.95.

Hila Colman has written several short novels for teenage girls, and *The Girl from Puerto Rico* is intended for this audience. In the words on the jacket, "Without oversimplifying the many difficult problems, Hila Colman shows what it means to be a Puerto Rican in New York, and Felicidad shines through her story as a sweet and sensitive heroine." Given the purpose of the author, the merits of the book exceed its deficiencies, and life both in rural Puerto Rico and in Spanish Harlem is generally accurately described. Careful editing, however, should have caught the many errors and inconsistencies of accentuation and such misusages and misspellings as *Louisa*, *Collegio de Baptista*, *turista* with a plural verb, *asopoa* for *asopao*, and *las arrables*. Puerto Ricans do not eat *tortillas* and their favorite beverage is not ice cold soda. Puerto Ricans with true Indian features are exceedingly rare. The

Puerto Rican school system will probably have double sessions daily in many localities until 1964, yet "Felicidad thought it very odd that a country as rich as the United States [i.e., New York City] didn't have enough schools. In her little island there were schools everywhere, and the rooms weren't crowded and dreary the way they were here [New York]." (p. 108) Finally it is not made clear that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is in fact part of the United States and that Puerto Ricans are American citizens. The author does succeed in contrasting typical insular behavior and attitudes with those of Puerto Ricans and other groups in New York City, and her novel is an implicit plea for understanding and acceptance of the Puerto Rican emigrant with which we can have no quarrel.

FREDERICK E. KIDDER

Universidad de Puerto Rico,  
Mayagüez

*The West Indian Comes to England.* Edited by S. K. RUCK. New York, 1960. The Humanities Press. Tables. Appendices. Index. Pp. 187. \$5.00.

The decade of the 1950's has seen an ever increasing influx of British West Indians, chiefly from Jamaica, into the United Kingdom. In this period over 100,000 persons made the long and expensive journey from the tropical lands of their birth to reap the heralded economic opportunities of the mid-latitude motherland. The problems and progress of these British citizens, as set forth by the several authors of this volume, are drawn from 400 social casework files of the Family Welfare Association.

The first third of the book is a generally valuable account by Douglas Manley of the West Indian social and cultural background. Following this is a brief but adequate chapter by Ivo de Souza which focuses on arrival procedures and problems. Albert Hyndman's sympathetic description and analysis of the West Indian in London is the heart of the study. Problems of poor and crowded housing, reluctant

acceptance of West Indians into trade union memberships, competition for unskilled and semi-skilled jobs, family conflicts, and racial prejudice are among the omnipresent features of immigrant life portrayed here. This able social document concludes with brief descriptions of the West Indians in the cities of Bristol, Liverpool, and Nottingham, where patterns and problems are similar to those in London. Several appendices provide basic demographic and economic data on the British West Indies, along with lists of organizations in the United Kingdom and the colonies that have facilities for aiding these determined and hard-working immigrants.

ALLEN BUSHONG

Bowling Green State University

*The Cloud Forest.* By PETER MATTHIESSEN. New York, 1961. The Viking Press. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 280. \$6.50.

Thirty or even only twenty years ago the title of this book would have read simply: *By Boat, Plane, and Bus through most of South America.* But in this public-relations-minded, image-creating, consumer-oriented age the reader is lured by an exciting title, only to find himself facing a mirage! To paraphrase the author (p. 94): "But there is no sign of the Cloud Forest, and I shall have to wait until the next chapter. This, of course, is one of the drawbacks of reading out-of-the-way titles, that such reading is at best uncertain and one is often stranded for three or four chapters at a time."

The author, however, solves this dilemma by labeling as jungle everything green, thick, and bordering rivers, roads, and horizons. In between one is treated to those good old travel-lore stand-bys such as a discourse on the length of anacondas, and Colonel Fawcett; of more recent vintage are references to Communism, Albert Camus, and the dead missionaries of the Auca country, who he calls "in the most literal sense, damned fools." On the other hand, Mr. Matthiessen is quite

shocked by the looks of a spider monkey being readied for a jungle barbecue.

Books should stimulate thought and raise questions. For example, one lays this book aside with these three questions in mind: how did the German-Chilean maiden and the pilot make love in the cockpit over Lago Buenos Aires? Who won the soccer match at Río Grande? And finally, what is the cloud forest?

Contrary to the author's modest opinion, the reviewer believes that Matthiessen's pictures are excellent. As a matter of fact, such good pictures and only the second part of the present volume—with the chapter heading as title—would have made a likeable little book.

E. E. HEGEN

University of Tampa

*Friedrich Ratzel. A Biographical Memoir and Bibliography.* By HARRIET WANKLYN. London, 1961. Cambridge University Press. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 96. \$2.25.

Why review a biography of Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904)? He is the founder of anthropogeography, which he considered "an introduction to the application of geography to history," and the father of political geography. Although less-known than Humbolt, Ratzel toured North and Central America. In 1878 he published a book of interest about Mexico. In my own study of Bolivian historiography and the development of modern Bolivian revolutionary thought I discovered that Ratzel had a heavy influence on Bolivian thinkers, including historians. The Ratzel influence in Latin America is great and remains a valid topic of study.

Ratzel, in his early youth a newspaper reporter and then a distinguished professor, wrote 27 large books and more than 300 articles. The Wanklyn booklet is not a definitive biography; the Steinmetzler book of 1956 (Bonn) comes closer to this goal. But this newest bio-bibliographic book is a valuable study. It gives in a few pages the basic data; it explains Ratzel and Rat-