

and a great deal more about education than just its contribution toward Brazilian economic growth. Moreira traces the rise of the school system from colonial days to the late 1950's and in the process elaborates one of the finest resums of Brazilian social history this reviewer has seen. In the course of examining the school as a vehicle for social mobility he incorporates significant information on the size and structure of social classes since about 1870. He demonstrates that in fact the school often served to stabilize the status quo, and he points out that the growth in school enrollments during this century has lagged far behind the growth of the middle class. The author concludes that a university degree has not yet become the *sine qua non* of acceptance into the upper and upper middle classes, although members of the urban proletariat and lower middle class are coming to regard formal education as the principal avenue for social advancement.

In his relatively brief statement on economic development, Moreira emphasizes the problem of increasing the productivity of industrial and rural labor and examines the inadequacies for this task of the traditional school system, with its stress on humanistic studies, intellectual exercises, and "verbal agility."

This volume was prepared when the education issue was being hotly debated in the Brazilian Congress. The first nine chapters serve as the foundation for the final one in which the author presents his views on the kind of national education law Brazil should have. The immediate purpose for the debate has now been largely overtaken by events, but the facts and interpretations the author presents to buttress his argument for a broad, public primary school system with regional variations should continue to be of interest and value to the social historian of Brazil.

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*Panorama cultural da amazônia.* By PEREGRINO JUNIOR. Bahia, 1960. Ministério da Educação e Cultura. Universidade da Bahia. Pp. 58. Paper.

Anyone who reads this work on the Amazon region will find himself doubly rewarded for the time that he spends on it. It is first-rate reading because of its literary quality, and it is solidly informative because the author knows what he is writing about. He is gifted with the ability to compress his knowledge into an amazing small space, and then utilize that space with an almost artistic ability that holds the reader's attention and demands his admiration. In spite of its brevity, the result is a work that should appeal to a wide reading public. Although Peregrino Junior wrote this several-sided essay largely from an over-all, generalized approach, reading it will reward interested scholars in any of the social sciences in particular, and anyone who enjoys good writing in general. Even when the reader anticipates the contents of the author's comments, the highly lucid presentations of his thoughts and the word imagery that he uses make reading such comments pleasurable and profitable. He closes by listing many of the outstanding authors and works on the Amazon region, and his brief critiques of each are a useful bonus for the reader. This work may not offer new information for specialists on the region, but it will repay anyone who reads it with either pleasure or deeper understanding—or both. It is a little gem.

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#### OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

*Texas Today and Tomorrow.* Edited by HERBERT GAMBRELL. Preface by GEORGE C. MCGHEE. Dallas, 1961. Southern Methodist University Press. Tables. Pp. 126. \$3.00.

*Medieval Technology and Social Change.* By LYNN WHITE, JR. New York, 1962. Oxford University Press. II-