

versionary interest for their own purposes. In this respect, considerable new material is presented on the Escorial affair.

But what makes the book perplexing is that it is not quite history and not quite good historical biography. The style is ponderous. The organization lacks continuity. Many of the historiographical comments and judgments included in the text should have been inserted as footnotes. More important, although Izquierdo Hernández covers the period from the beginning of the reign of Charles IV to the return of Ferdinand in 1814, he does so superficially. When he deals with important historical events, he has little new to offer, and he ignores internal problems and policies. Frequently he has written too much or too little. He often seems overly concerned with trivia. The names and salaries of Ferdinand's wet nurses merit almost as much attention as the policies of Jovellanos and Campomanes. The prince's dental bills for the years 1799 and 1800 would hardly seem to warrant mention. The section dealing with Ferdinand's exile at Valencay does make a positive contribution to our knowledge of his character, but at this time he did not significantly alter the course of events in Spain. The situation in Spain is discussed, but both Miguel Artola and Gabriel Lovett have dealt with the period more thoroughly.

Since this is only the first volume of a proposed study of the reign of Ferdinand VII, Izquierdo Hernández should use his extensive knowledge to better advantage in covering the events after 1814 when Ferdinand did play a significant role. In the meantime, American scholars will probably find Gabriel Lovett, *Napoleon and the Birth of Modern Spain*, a more useful account.

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COLONIAL AND INDEPENDENCE PERIODS

Sir Francis Drake. By CHRISTOPHER LLOYD. London, 1957. Faber and Faber. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 144. \$3.00. (Recently distributed in the U.S. by Lawrence Verry, Inc. Mystic, Conn.)

This brief biography represents an effort to present concisely to the general reader the findings of modern scholarship on the life and exploits of Sir Francis Drake. After setting the sixteenth-century stage Lloyd discusses Drake's early association with John Hawkins and the humiliation suffered at San Juan de Ulúa. Lloyd then deals with Drake as freebooter, circumnavigator, commander-in-chief of

the West Indies expedition of 1585-86, "beard-singer," and conqueror of the Armada. The remaining pages are devoted to Drake's failures after 1589.

Lloyd assures his readers that the book ". . . is not written in the spirit of hero-worship . . ." (p. 11), and although Lloyd is properly critical on occasion, generally speaking Drake's heroic image is retained. Thus it is Drake the great "practical navigator" whose genius towers above all the seamen of his day; it is Drake the honest and generous leader; and it is Drake the justified braggart. Moreover, the reader is asked to believe that Drake's abandonment of Hawkins at San Juan de Ulúa should be charitably attributed to contrary winds; that it was Drake alone who realized the potential of naval power; and that, although Lord Howard of Effingham commanded the English fleet, it was Drake who fought the Armada.

Because of the brevity of the work some episodes lack full treatment. For example, Lloyd fails to deal with the question raised by Irene A. Wright regarding the presence of silver at Nombre de Dios during the 1572 raid. Nevertheless, the author has presented an interesting biography. The general reader who wishes to become better acquainted with Drake will profit from this book.

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Historia de la isla de Cuba y en especial de la Habana. By ANTONIO J. VALDÉS. Havana, 1964. Comisión Nacional Cubana de la UNESCO. Pp. 356. Paper.

Antonio J. Valdés' history of Cuba was first published in Havana in 1813 and reprinted in 1876. The author originally planned a two-volume work, but the second, a description of Cuba's economy and geography, was lost before publication. Valdés was born in Matanzas, Cuba in 1780. While in Cuba he founded a primary school, wrote an elementary grammar and his history, and established a press. In 1816 he went to Buenos Aires, where he published a newspaper. In 1820 he left for Mexico. There he was given important government jobs, including appointment as director of the census. The date of his death is uncertain, varying anywhere, according to Cuban scholars, from 1822 to 1850.

Valdés' history is an inventory of dates, persons (mainly governors and churchmen), and events from 1492 to 1813, giving special attention to the location of churches on the island and an account of the English attack on Havana in 1762. The 1964 edition of the book carries an introduction taken from the works of Cuban historian