

esty's Stationery Office for the Colonial Office. Illustrations. Map. Tables. Bibliography. Pp. 92. Paper. \$1.60. (Distributed by the British Information Service, New York.)

British Virgin Islands. Report for the Years 1963 and 1964. London, 1966. Her Majesty's Stationery Office for the Colonial Office. Illustrations. Map. Tables. Appendix. Bibliography. Pp. 60. Paper. \$1.20. (Distributed by the British Information Service, New York.)

St. Vincent. Report for the Years 1962 and 1963. London, 1966. Her Majesty's Stationery Office for the Colonial Office. Illustrations. Map. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. 72. Paper. \$1.40. (Distributed by the British Information Service, New York.)

These four booklets, all with the same format and chapter titles, are in essence what their titles indicate—surveys of the islands named for the specified years. They include political, economic, social, and military information given in a straightforward factual manner that is helpful for reference because it is both detailed and concise. They were not intended for reading through hurriedly at one sitting but for reference. They are written like so many governmental reports in unimaginative prose with numerous tables. What this reviewer would have liked in addition would be a picture of the social scene in the islands—life as a whole rather than all the separate pieces. For economic and social service activities, a little background and some changes are given; but the time span is so short that little real development can be noted.

What the booklets do well is to illustrate how administrations in the various islands have taken hold after the disruption of the Federation of the West Indies. Self-government seems to be working well in these islands, and the fairly rapid changes have not disrupted the areas as much as in some

other less well-prepared areas of the world.

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New Granada: Twenty Months in the Andes. By ISAAC F. HOLTON. Edited and with an introduction by C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1967. Southern Illinois University Press. Latin American Travel Series. Pp. xviii, 223. \$7.50.

Arriving at Santa Marta in August 1852, Isaac F. Holton crossed Colombia by steamer, mule train, and foot. He made his exit at Buenaventura twenty months later with 1800 plant specimens and a bulging diary. In editing this diary, C. Harvey Gardiner abridged the text, deleted Holton's maps and illustrations, and added an introduction with a biographical sketch of Holton. A few of the illustrations and particularly a map might have been left to live the text and guide the reader.

Holton candidly records activities ranging from boring tertulias to discoveries of flora. He offers comments on schools, governments, and families in towns where he stops. Often he gives details of meal preparation and seems to have delighted in watching the servant prepare sopa, maize cakes, fried plantain, and chocolate. Holton's diary is a chain of such observations told with occasional wit and understatement. It makes pleasant if not stimulating reading for anyone interested in commonplace events of mid-nineteenth century Colombia.

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Four Years Among the Ecuadorians. By FRIEDRICH HASSAUREK. Edited and with an introduction by C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1967. Southern Illinois University Press. Latin American Travel Series. Pp. xxi, 196. \$7.50.

This is an abridgment of the classic *Four Years Among Spanish Americans* (New York, 1867) by the United States

minister resident to Ecuador during the first years in power of Gabriel García Moreno. Hassaurek characterizes García Moreno as the would-be civilizer of his country despite excesses by the caudillo, several of which are related. C. Harvey Gardiner has appropriately retitled the work, properly deleted extraneous hearsay and historical material, and provided a useful sketch of the author in the introduction. He has not, however, added a badly needed map, glossary, or index. Selections from other travelogues on Ecuador, a few of which Gardiner mentions, may be found in the basic *El Ecuador visto por los extranjeros*, edited by Humberto Toscano (Quito, 1960), which he does not cite.

Hassaurek's treatment of Guayaquil and the coast is scanty and misleading. He excels, however, in describing the hardships of internal travel in Ecuador which he aptly likens to "a campaign life" (p. 144). And he is at his best in portraying man and land in the sierra, especially in and around Quito. He found the upper class to be courteous but indolent. As a democrat imbued with "the Protestant ethic," he sympathized with the Indian "serfs" whom he calls "the most useful members of Ecuadorian society" (p. 107). In brief, Hassaurek colorfully and for the most part realistically depicts life in mid-nineteenth century Ecuador and the problems which its theocratic master faced.

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Three Years in Chile. By MRS. GEORGE B. MERWIN. Edited and with an introduction by C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1966. Southern Illinois University Press. Latin American Travel Series. Pp. xvii, 102. \$4.50.

Mrs. Merwin's short work is based on residence in Chile from 1853 to 1856, while first her father and then her husband served as United States consul in Valparaiso. It consists of her personal observations on Chilean daily life, presented in a rather scattered manner, and stressing the influence of cli-

mate, the social importance of religion, and the traditional love of ceremony and celebration. While retaining her Yankee outlook, Mrs. Merwin grew to appreciate and learn from Chilean ways. The editor has prefaced the complete text with a brief introduction containing a biographical sketch of the author and commentary upon the characteristics of her writing.

A.S.

Paraguay. A Riverside Nation. 3rd ed. By GEORGE PENDLE. New York, 1967. Oxford University Press for the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 96. \$3.40.

The author has updated, reorganized, retitled, and in some cases, shortened sections of his authoritative and comprehensive little book about the most backward country in South America. On his third visit to Paraguay in 1965 after an absence of ten years, he found conditions virtually unchanged: a country dominated by its history of isolation, the same repressive government in power, a social structure still suffering from the decimation of two disastrous wars and political exile, an economy too dependent on Argentina, and one of the lowest per capita incomes in Latin America.

Pendle did encounter some hopeful developments. A modest expansion of the highway system was under way to connect Asunción, the capital, with Brazilian ports and new agricultural areas in the interior. A land reform program had been launched. Japanese immigration had been successfully encouraged, and the purchase of ships for its river fleet had begun to reduce Paraguay's reliance on Argentina. Pendle is pessimistic, however, about the benefits of Paraguay's association with the Latin American Free Trade Association.

One detects a sense of sadness in certain parts of the book. The author likes Paraguay and the Paraguayan people, and he grieves that they can neither "live in idyllic solitude nor compete on equal terms with the great nations that surround it" (p. 79).