

recounts his own life, his leadership role in the Leagues, and the causes of their weakness as he sees them.

R. G.

The Mexican War Diary of Thomas D. Tennery. Edited by D. E. LIVINGSTON-LITTLE. Norman, Oklahoma, 1970. University of Oklahoma Press. Map. Illustrations. Epilogue. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxxix, 117. Cloth. \$4.95.

Tennery was a volunteer and private who left his farm home in Effingham County, Illinois on June 29, 1846, to go to war. The diary covers his long trek down the Mississippi, across the Gulf of Mexico to Matamoros, up the Rio Grande as far as Camargo, then overland and south to Victoria and Tampico. His Fourth Illinois Regiment was then shipped to Veracruz for the march to Mexico City. In the battle at Cerro Gordo he was shot in both legs. Delayed by his wounds, he followed his regiment home and reached Salem on June 30, 1847.

The diary shows Tennery to have been a sensitive, articulate man reacting with perception to the novelties of his experience. He is as deeply moved by the natural beauties of the Mexican scene as by the sufferings and death among his friends and comrades. Before he reached Cerro Gordo he saw only the effects of the fighting, and most of this occurred among a quarreling and badly disciplined American army. Mexican civilians appear frequently in his record, always in terms which suggest friendliness and respect. His pity for their low estate is grounded on his belief that a Spanish tradition has left them priest-ridden.

The introductory sketch of the Mexican War is not altogether satisfactory to a student of Mexican history. The notes are helpful to those interested in the military record of the War.

Loyola University

PAUL S. LIETZ

La anarquía henequenera de Yucatán. By ENRIQUE MANERO. México, 1966. Editorial Jus. Illustrations. Tables. Charts. Notes. Pp. 43. Paper. \$20.00 (Mex.).

There are many species which belong to the same genus as the well-known, decorative century plant. Many of these species are found in Mexico. Enrique Manero writes of one of them, the Mexican henequen, botanically known as *Agave fourcroydes* (Family: Amaryllidaceae). Henequen is a wild plant uniquely adapted to the Yucatan Peninsula. Manero examines the question of its origin and traces its use from the time of Columbus to the present. For at least four and a half centuries the plant, more commonly called sisal in the United States, has been grown and harvested in Yucatan for use in the manufacture of rope, twine, and coarse bagging materials.

Manero presents facts to explain the decline in the production of henequen in Yucatan: low wages, commercial monopoly, poor management, lack of government support, synthetic fibres, and competition from other countries. The author insists that simultaneous attention and development in five areas (agricultural, industrial, commercial, labor, and economic) are required if production of henequen is to have a future in the economy of Yucatan. The final chapter

discusses equipment which has been used through the centuries to extract the fibre from the henequen leaves.

Although this is an interesting compilation of information about the production and use of henequen in Yucatan, each of the five chapters essentially stands alone, leaving this reader with the impression of a disjointed treatise.

Purdue University

MARION F. BAUMGARDNER

Don Andrés Bello (1781-1865): Ensayo Bibliográfico. Compiled by AGUSTÍN MILLARES CARLO. México, 1970. Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia. Publicación 310, Bibliografías, 4. Pp. 130. Paper.

This bibliography first appeared in the *Revista de Historia de América*, Nos. 67-68. It is divided in two main parts: first, works by Andrés Bello; and second, works about him. The first of these parts contains all essential data pertinent to the four editions of his collected works as well as to works published individually. The second contains similar data pertinent to earlier bibliographies and to critical materials, including annotations wherever necessary. Such an extensive compilation of books and articles on Bello and the procedure of listing the exact location of his compositions in the various collections are both extremely useful. Addenda bring the compilation up to 1969, using a simple alphabetical increment to the original numerical sequence. The compiler is modest in suggesting his bibliography to be merely an attempt; actually it is meticulously done and the most complete on this particular subject to date.

M. E. G.-C.

Consorts and Castles: The Story of Three Women and Their Homes. By ALISON NICHOLAS. New York, 1970. Vantage Press. Pp. 265. Cloth. \$4.95.

The consorts and castles in question are Joséphine de Beauharnais, wife of Napoleon I, and Malmaison; Manuela Saenz, mistress of Simón Bolívar, and Quinta de Bolívar; and Carlota (incorrectly spelled Carlotta throughout), wife of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, and Chapultepec Castle. They have been brought together under one cover simply because the author had visited the three residences and developed a romantic interest in their former chattelaines. Divided into three distinct parts, the book is without thematic unity. Indeed, none is possible, for the lives of the three women did not touch. They had little in common except their role as consort of an important man and their experience of personal tragedy.

The audience for such a book should be small. Architecture buffs will find descriptions of these historical monuments disappointingly meager. The historian will encounter a superficial narrative interspersed with factual errors. The general reader, put off by awkwardness in style and meanders through family genealogies, very likely will close the book in boredom.

N. N. B.

Uruguay en crisis. By CARLOS M. RAMA. Montevideo, 1969. El Siglo Ilustrado. Colección Libros de Bolsillo. Pp. 143. Paper.

A collection of polemical articles written over a ten-year period by the distinguished Marxist sociologist. They are devoted to political and educational