

of Rio de Janeiro, and many who left the captaincy did so to employ their capital more profitably elsewhere, not because of poverty. In fact the overall concept of the culture of decadence in Minas needs more rigorous analysis, something that might well begin with some attention to the work of European historians on similar problems.

But such quibbles may be unfair. The author makes no claim to have written a definitive history. And this is an important work, based on wide-ranging research in archives and published materials, opening up many new perspectives. Well indexed, and with a fine map of the region at the end of the colonial period, it is essential reading for those interested in eighteenth-century Brazil.

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Montebelo, os males e os mascates: contribuição para a história de Pernambuco na segunda metade do século XVII. By GILBERTO OSÓRIO DE ANDRADE. Preface by JORDÃO EMERENCIANO. Recife, Brazil, 1969. Universidade Federal de Pernambuco. Bibliography. Pp. 181. Paper.

This volume focuses on aspects of the political, medical and social history of Northeastern Brazil during the late seventeenth century. It is a readable and scholarly study but one which never fully lives up to the promise of its title. Although the author cites a fairly wide array of secondary sources, and some few manuscripts, he offers little depth about the Marquis of Montebelo, or the sanitary campaign which Montebelo organized in 1691 to fight an epidemic of yellow fever. As for *mascates*, the word is scarcely used after the title page.

Students of medical history will be interested in Andrade's opinion that yellow fever, in the form of "jungle yellow fever," existed endemically throughout parts of Latin America and Africa in remote pre-Columbian times. "Jungle yellow fever" (*febre amarella silvestre*), which clinically is the same disease as the common "urban yellow fever" (*febre amarella urbana*), differs from the latter in that it is spread by different varieties of mosquitos than the famed *Aedes aegypti* species. Andrade explains the advent of the 1685 epidemic in Pernambuco through a new importation not of the yellow fever virus, which he thinks was already present, but of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Furthermore, the seeming disappearance of yellow fever in Brazil between 1695 [*sic*] and 1849 could then be explained by the temporary disappearance of the *Aedes aegypti*, while the few and controversial cases reported during those years might well have been

of the rare jungle variety. This theory, which is not original with Andrade, is certainly plausible although as yet unproved.

Andrade states that the prophylactic campaign organized by Montebelo was the first one that was systematically planned and carried out against any disease in the New World (p. 25). This would be a medical "first" of considerable importance; yet the campaign is not discussed in detail until the last chapter, and even here Andrade relies heavily on *bandos* which state what was ordered to be done rather than what necessarily took place. Given the widespread loss of documents of that period, however, it may well be that Andrade's sketchy account is as full as we shall ever have.

As a monograph the book is mildly disappointing, but as a series of essays on inter-related regional themes it offers good chapters on the rise of Recife at the expense of Olinda, the competition between *fazendeiros* and merchants, and the political roles of the *câmara* and the royal governor. Economic and medical historians will profit the most from reading this volume.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Alienation of Church Wealth in Mexico: Social and Economic Aspects of the Liberal Revolution, 1856-1875. By JAN BAZANT. Edited and Translated by MICHAEL P. COSTELOE. London, 1971. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge Latin American Studies, 11. Tables. Maps. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 333. Cloth. \$17.50.

Los bienes de la Iglesia en México, 1856-1875. Aspectos económicos y sociales de la Revolución liberal. By JAN BAZANT. México, 1971. El Colegio de México. Centro de Estudios Históricos, Nueva Serie, 13. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Indexes. Pp. xiii, 364. Paper.

Like Mark Twain's weather, the nineteenth century Reforma in Mexico has been much talked about but has seldom been the subject of penetrating research. We now owe to Jan Bazant a monograph on the disamortization that is a model of formulation of a problem and of rigorously objective, painstaking research. Recognizing the importance of the book, the Cambridge University Press has sponsored simultaneous publication of an unusually understanding English rendering by Michael Costeloe.

Professor Bazant opens his study with a comment on the inherently