

include the letters of Toscanelli, Caminha, Master John and the Corte-Real documents. The bibliography is well chosen but unfortunately a number of authorities which were evidently not available are lacking. From the analysis given of this volume it can be realized that the author has produced an excellent work which merits the respect of historians of the discovery period, and that Capistrano de Abreu was justified in believing that the author aimed to present facts in an honest and impartial manner.

WILLIAM B. GREENLEE.

The Newberry Library.

The Argentine Republic. By YSABEL F. RENNIE (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1945. Pp. xvii, 431. \$4.00.)

There are few really good histories in English of individual Hispanic-American countries. This is illustrated in the case of Argentina, where the best we have are the volume by the Englishman F. A. Kirkpatrick (1931), the section by James Fred Rippey in Alva Curtis Wilgus, ed., *Argentina, Brazil and Chile Since Independence* (1935), and the translation by William Spence Robertson of Ricardo Levene's *Lecciones* in The Inter-American Series (1937). These works give little attention to the years after 1930, for which period we have only journalistic interpretations by such writers as Henry Albert Phillips (1941), J. W. White (1942), Francis Herron (1943), Ray Jacobs (1944), and Felix José Weil (1944).

Now Mrs. Ysabel Fisk Rennie provides us with a much-needed synthesis and interpretation of the entire last century in Argentina's development. In this reviewer's opinion she has done a remarkably good piece of work. Since this is Mrs. Rennie's first book, let us say something about the author. She is twenty-seven years of age, descended on her mother's side from colonial Spanish stock, and she learned Spanish before English. Her excellent linguistic equipment and keen insight into the Spanish character and psychology are evident throughout her work. Mrs. Rennie was trained in history at Stanford University (A.B., 1939) and Radcliffe College (M.A., 1940), and on a traveling fellowship studied two years in Argentina (1941-1943). The first she spent in traveling all over the Republic, and the second in collecting documentary material.

Mrs. Rennie conceives of history as a looking back from the conditions as they are in the present to their causation in the past. In the preface she says that she "spent more than a year hunting the issues, looking for the questions to ask." The problems she found were "the

disastrous economic unbalance of the country, between Buenos Aires and the interior, between agriculture and nascent industry," "the slow economic decline of the landed oligarchy, and the death struggle by which the landed class was trying to exclude other classes from effective participation in national life," "the anger and frustration of the immigrant millions in the face of fraud and political exclusion," and "the dying hold of those foreign enterprises that had first brought wealth to the young Republic, and whose hegemony that Republic had outgrown."

The author goes back to the period immediately before Rosas to find the historical roots of all these conflicts in Argentine life. There she picks up the threads—economic, social, and political—and, skilfully interweaving them, carries them up to the present. Despite the complexity of the subject, periods, forces, and personalities in Argentine history are brought into sharp focus. The Rosas period, the *Noventa*, and the 1930 revolution are especially well handled. If the book can be said to have heroes, they are Sarmiento, Alberdi, Urquiza, and Lisandro de la Torre. Yrigoyen, whom Mrs. Rennie sees as fundamentally the caudillo and the ward politician, comes off somewhat second best, although she fully recognizes the social advances made in his period. The author tends to bear down heavier and to become more detailed as she approaches the present. In fact, one third of the book is devoted to the years after 1930. She maintains that the 1943 revolution was the "gauchesque reaction," and that this event will in time be seen to be "economically, politically, socially the most important event in Argentine history since the *Noventa*."

This study is based upon sound research. It is well footnoted (pp. 389-404), and it has an extensive "Selective Bibliography" in the back (pp. 405-419). It has a good index, a number of interesting illustrations, and an end map in the front of the volume. This substantial, objective, and readable book should be warmly welcomed by every one who has a serious interest in Hispanic American history.

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Sentido nacionalista del pensamiento de Saco. By RAÚL LORENZO. [Ensayo cubano, VII.] (Habana: Editorial Trópico, 1942. Pp. 192. Paper.)

It was only natural for Cuban historians of the generation following 1898 to be interested primarily in the establishment of their country's independence. This interest, however, has led them to over-emphasize the participants in conspiracies and uprisings while neglecting men who