

SOUTH AMERICA

Professor Coester, in his *Literary History of Spanish America*, has given us one of the most useful books which the student of Latin America has seen in many days. The historians have, as yet, gone scarcely deep enough below the surface of Spanish American civilization to warrant a satisfying historical interpretation of its literature, and "Manual" rather than "History" would be a more fitting title for this volume. Its practical value lies in just the fact that here the student, amateur and professional, may find out what has been written by our neighbors to a degree heretofore impossible, even to those who know Spanish. Professor Coester's method is in general chronological, with the customary grouping of historical periods and the traditional interpretation of movements and personalities.

One could wish for fuller treatment of the literature of the Colonial period, those three centuries which saw the development of most of the problems which confront the republics of today. A disproportionate allotment of space is given to the Revolutionary period, tho not sufficient to make clear the meaning of that period, and the significance of its results. The modern Spanish American states are then taken up,

most of them for a chapter each, with an enumeration and characterization of their most important literary productions during the nineteenth century. A closing chapter on the contemporary *Modernista* movement is especially valuable for its appreciation and criticism of the work of the brilliant Nicaraguan lyric poet, Ruben Darío, who died recently. Used in conjunction with the author's bibliography of Spanish-American literature, published in the *Romanic Review*, we have here the best available guide, in English, for the novice in this field. It is to be hoped that some one will soon do a similar piece of work for the Portuguese-American colonies and modern Brazil.

In *Argentina and Uruguay*, the statement that "the only slight pretension of the present book is to be informative," is typical of the author's muddled English whenever he forsakes the field of simply stated fact regarding the economic resources, productions and conditions of modern Argentina and Uruguay. Here Mr. Ross is thoroly at home, thanks to his long experience as trade journalist in Buenos Ayres, and he has given us a volume of unusual contemporary worth, if the reader will omit chapters I, III and IV, and is able to pardon, or laugh at, much execrable English, and such *faux pas* as the following: "His wit, and hers (the *gaucho* and his lady), most frequently take the form of *double entente*."

Margarette Daniels' choice of *Makers of South America* will not always be to the taste of the historian and student, but the juvenile reader has here the first book of its kind which has ever come to the reviewer's notice as worthy of any serious attention. Not the least valuable feature of the book is its appended bibliography, notably well chosen, if one be allowed to except certain modern books of travel, which, however, are perhaps little worse than the best of their kind in North America.

The Literary History of Spanish America, by Alfred Coester. The Macmillan Company. \$2.50. *Argentina and Uruguay*, by Gordon Ross. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. \$3.00. *Makers of South America*, by Margarette Daniels. Missionary Educational Movement. Cloth, 60 cents; paper, 40 cents.