

1941

Book Reviews

University of New Mexico Press

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

Recommended Citation

University of New Mexico Press. "Book Reviews." *New Mexico Quarterly* 11, 3 (1941). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol11/iss3/33>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Quarterly by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

BOOK REVIEWS

Pan America: A Program for the Western Hemisphere, by Carleton Beals. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940. \$3.00.

Carleton Beals is today and has been for a good many years back the leading interpreter of Latin America to the people of the United States. The writings of this free-lance American journalist are not the product of brief excursions to the countries of Latin America, but derive from long residence among our southern neighbors. Author of seventeen books, of which *The Coming Struggle for Latin America* and *Mexican Maze* are the best known, the man has an unparalleled knowledge of the countries below the Rio Grande.

Beals is no mere reporter for he suffuses all of his writings with his own political thinking, which is that of a modern liberal. Humane and understanding, enthusiastic and hopeful, he also has a lively sense of the practical. Although he has little use for the native feudalism that passes for republican government in Latin America, he has a genuine love for the ordinary people of the region and appreciates the savor and substance of their life. In this, his latest book, he describes the economic resources of these semi-colonial countries, and suggests an economic program for their development that would be of mutual advantage to the people of Latin America and the United States. Coming at a time when we are concerned over securing an adequate and convenient source of raw materials essential to our armament program, and when we are worried over our future international trade, the book is of much interest as it offers a possible solution for these problems.

Beals, in a series of lengthy chapters that might have been made briefer in the interest of readability, inventories the material resources of Latin America, actual and potential. The list is impressive and on it can be found almost every raw material this country needs now or will

likely need in the future. What Latin America lacks to make these resources available to the United States, says Beal, is capital for their development, the training of its labor in the technical arts, and an assured market for the absorption of its products.

The goal of such a program should not be merely shortsighted self-interest on the part of the United States but the creation and maintenance in Latin America of independent nations of free people. You cannot buy the friendship of the people to the south, he says, by the continuance of the old system of public loans to the fly-by-night dictators who divert the funds to their own personal uses. A loan policy whereby loans are made only for productive industrial purposes, preferably for the production of essential materials for which there is a ready and assured market in the United States or other parts of the world, is essential. Such a policy, by creating the opportunities for more employment in Latin America and an increased purchasing power for the people there, would at once bring them more of the benefits of civilized living and us a valuable export market.

Accompanying such an economic program should go a political program if the former is to succeed, Beals points out. We should not seek in developing South America to gain control of their resources, but permit them to remain in native hands. Nor should we seek to monopolize the entire output of strategic materials, but merely to secure the minimum amounts vitally necessary to ourselves on fair and liberal terms, the remainder to be available to other countries. No restrictions on Latin American trade with other parts of the world should be sought. An announcement on our part, once we were ready to embark on such a program, that we desired no territorial expansion and that we would not infringe on Latin American sovereignty, as we do not now permit others to do, would gain for us much popular support in the region, Beals thinks.

One can find little fault with such a statesmanlike proposal; one can only doubt whether we will develop and sustain the social vision necessary for its accomplishment. Certainly, if some policy closely approximating Beals' suggestions is not followed, we are going to wake up some day to find Latin America a problem rather than an asset.

An admirable part of Beals' thinking about Latin America is that he sees that just as economic isolation is impossible for the United States, so it is impossible for the hemisphere. Latin America needs to be

developed economically, primarily for its own people, then for the United States and the other nations. We should not, and western cattlemen will agree with him on this point, import South American products to the detriment of home producers, but instead seek the development of industries in Latin America complementary to our own. If we concentrate on this the non-complementary products of Latin America can be sold to the countries in the region benefitting from increased purchasing power and to the nations of other continents.

The major criticism to be made of the book is that the author devotes well over half of his first 500 pages to discussing the shortcomings of traditional international trade practices before he discusses his program for the western hemisphere from which the book gains its principal interest. His object in these introductory chapters is to give a world setting for Pan American problems, but it could have been accomplished in much shorter space.

As a practical, short-range program likely to be of immediate benefit to the United States in its present defense efforts, Beals' program is open to serious doubts. It would take years to realize practical benefits from such a program. The reviewer feels strongly that to buy the time necessary for such a program to operate, we had best give increasing aid to Britain in helping win the Battle of the Atlantic. A Nazi-controlled Europe, with its international barter system of trade, would probably mean the doom of any hope for the development of Latin America in an economic or politically democratic way.

THOMAS C. DONNELLY

Our Latin American Neighbors, by Philip Leonard Green. New York: Hastings House, 1941. \$2.00.

Reportage on Mexico, by Virginia Prewett. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1941. \$3.00.

Puerto Rico, by John W. Thompson. New York: Hastings House, 1940. \$1.50.

The growing interest in our neighbors in the other Americas has produced, in recent years, many titles by authors of varied interests and experiences. With each new title the publisher reminds us, either directly or indirectly, that the volume that he is publishing is not "just another book" on Latin America.

Although in the past there has been a paucity of books dealing with Latin America and its problems, considering the importance of these problems to the United States, none the less there have been many studies which have proved to be a valuable source for further investigators. It may be said that some of these earlier books, in spite of their age and inaccuracies, are more valuable in shedding light on the problems of modern Latin America than many recent publications. An example of one of these is García Calderón's *Latin America: Its Rise and Progress*, which appeared in London in 1913. In spite of the years that have elapsed since its publication, this book is still very vital; for even at that time, the author pointed out perils of which we are only now becoming aware (i.e., the German peril, the Japanese peril).

As far as content is concerned it must be said that there is little in these three books that is new or unusual. It is necessary, therefore, to turn to the presentation of the material to find why they are not to be classified as "just another book" on Latin America.

Our Latin American Neighbors, by Philip Leonard Green, is an excellent book for the reader who wants a condensed summary of the many Latin American problems from pre-Columbian days to the present. Mr. Green has done this in 173 pages! The material, though presented in somewhat the fashion of a syllabus, makes interesting reading. Owing to the tremendous scope of the book, there are many generalizations; yet the reader feels that the author made these only after careful study and investigation.

In the first three chapters of *Reportage on Mexico*, Virginia Prewett gives a quick picture of Mexico up to December 1, 1924, when Calles assumed the presidency. The other ten chapters deal with Mexico since that date. The last four chapters are based on firsthand information gathered by the author in Mexico during the past year, and are, therefore, more personal in style than the others. For example, the chapter "Mexico's Blackest Crime" (concerning the murder of Trotsky) has all the color of modern journalism.

Puerto Rico, by J. W. Thompson and edited by Laszlo Fodor, does all that it purports to do, "to give at least a glimpse, in words and pictures, of the Island's people and their cities and plantations." The book is lavishly illustrated; there are twenty pages of text and fifty-two of pictures. Although the book does not pretend to be a guide to Puerto Rico, it serves as an interesting and valuable introduction to that island.

Puerto Rico belongs to the series "Our Beautiful Americas" of the Hastings House.

ALBERT R. LOPES

Total Defense, by Clark Foreman and Joan Raushenbush. New York: Doubleday, Doran, 1940. \$1.25.

The essential thesis of *Total Defense* is that there has arisen in the world a mighty and compelling force to challenge the democratic way of life and that unless that force is checked by the transformation of democracy into a mightier force, nothing can save the world from Nazi domination.

It is not enough that we build airplanes and tanks and guns, the authors of *Total Defense* point out, not enough that we raise a powerful army to defend our liberties by military force. If democracy is to survive, it must demonstrate its fitness to survive in terms of economic flexibility, industrial productive capacity, an international point of view, and material security for the common man. We have done enough talking about democracy; the time has now come for democratic faith to be implemented with action.

The arguments of Foreman and Raushenbush are given dramatic emphasis by the form into which they are cast: that of two memoranda, the first on the topic "The Economic Conquest of the Americas" purporting to be addressed to Herr Hitler by his Reichsboro/for Political Economy, and the second, "An All-American Economic Program," addressed by the authors to the President, the Congress, and the people of the United States.

"The Economic Conquest of the Americas" is a frightening (and not too improbable) detailed plan for achieving political domination over the entire western hemisphere through economic penetration. Starting with the assumption that the most effective way for Germany to accomplish the downfall of the United States is through the establishment of German control over Latin American nations, the authors proceed to analyze with Machiavellian realism Latin America's economic weaknesses as well as those of the United States, and to point out step by step the exact methods Germany should use in obtaining economic domination. With characteristic German thoroughness they list fifteen reasons why the conquest of Latin America should be easy,

reasons ranging from the poverty and illiteracy of the people to the fact that Latin American men need money to support their mistresses, and then for good measure they add five powerful reasons why the United States won't be able to do anything to stop Germany, two of which are our failure to make democracy work internally and our insistence on clinging to an archaic concept of world trade.

The German program can be accomplished in five steps. The first of these, the purchase of Latin America, will be brought about by a realistic economic program working under twenty-first century business ethics. The second, the circumventing of the Monroe Doctrine, will be cleverly designed to make the United States appear the aggressor in any military action in Latin America. The third step will include the transition from economic control of Latin America to full political control. The United States' gold hoard will then be rendered useless, and this country will pass from sovereign status to the role of colonial adjunct of the Reich.

If the "Economic Conquest of the Americas" is depressing in its delineation of the future, the second memorandum in *Total Defense*, "An All-American Economic Program," offers some hope that we may be able to escape German domination if we act quickly enough and with sufficient foresight.

Five factors are at present operating to force America to take quick action. These include the recognition that huge armies and navies are no longer enough; that the speed of major social and economic change has increased enormously; that the German economic and political monopoly threatens everyone; that air power over the sea lanes is dangerous to our national survival; and that an able enemy of the democratic system has arisen and must be challenged.

Foreman and Raushenbush outline a six-point program that may enable us to meet the Nazi menace. First of all we must have an increase in our investments in Latin America along with a new type of investment that will operate to the mutual advantage of both the United States and the country invested in. Then we must have an all-American economy designed to industrialize the semi-colonial countries of Latin America and raise the standard of living throughout the entire hemisphere. Immediate steps must be taken to stave off Germany's economic thrusts, and we cannot afford to be niggardly in our spending to accomplish this purpose. We must develop roads, railroads, steam-

ship and air lines to facilitate trade and travel between the Americas; we must set up a systematic program of advertising ourselves in Latin America; and finally we must make democracy work in the United States before we can hope to sell it below the Rio Grande.

The weakness of the plan for the defense of the Americas lies, unfortunately, in the one area where Germany is strongest, and that is in the degree of governmental control over the economic policies of the nation. To stop Hitler's economic domination of Latin America will call for bold economic policies based on twentieth rather than eighteenth century thinking, for swiftness of action, for a long range view with almost no emphasis on immediate profits, and for a high degree of coördination between government and industry as well as between the various industries themselves; and, if the response of industrialists to the government's 1940 call for all-out aid to defense is any indication, we are not likely to be effective in any of these fields.

It is too soon to say that we will or will not eventually be dominated economically by the conqueror of Europe. But if we are, it will not be because there was no way to escape such domination, but rather because we preferred business as usual to national independence.

Foreman and Raushenbush have clearly pointed out the dangers we face and have indicated a plan whereby we may escape them. The degree to which we take heed of the dangers and utilize some such plan as they have worked out, may well prove to be the measure of the ability of democracy to survive.

LYLE SAUNDERS

No Life for a Lady, by Agnes Morley Cleaveland. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1941. \$3.00.

Agnes Morley Cleaveland's *No Life for a Lady* fulfills the first requirement for a good autobiography: it presents an interesting personality. I liked Mrs. Cleaveland immensely, from the opening page when the tearful little girl with a Territory of New Mexico ribbon across her chest sends the Decoration Day parade back to put flowers on her father's neglected grave, to the last glimpse of her swapping yarns with another old-timer about a figger-4 roan. I followed her fortunes eagerly, and accepted the accounts of her own and her brother's hardy exploits because of the convincing reality of the woman who

emerges in these pages. There is a story going the rounds that her skeptical Eastern publishers made Agnes give a personal demonstration of her alleged ability to play the harmonica; but for my part, if she says she can play a harmonica or beat two scalawags in an all-night poker game, that settles it.

Another requirement for a good autobiography, of course, is that it shall be well written. This requisite is the downfall of many a memoir; for it is hard to write frankly and naturally about oneself and still make a good story of it. Mrs. Cleaveland is charmingly candid and simple, but she also has a gift for dramatizing herself and her companions. As a child seeing for the first time the Datil Canyon that is to be her home, she screams, "That's *my* mountain!" and takes possession of it for life. As a slender girl riding sidewise on a horse, Agnes risks her neck to head off two mules; and forty-five years later the very cowboy who saw her do it shows up to gild the memory of her daring exploit. She rides across her narrative at full gallop, and it is worth the reader's while to try to keep pace with her.

New Mexico readers doubtless recognize Agnes Morley Cleaveland without introduction; but the general public needs a word of explanation that she is the daughter of the famous William Raymond Morley who was chief construction engineer of the Santa Fe Railroad in the early days, and that after his premature death in the eighties Mrs. Morley and her children ran a very large cattle ranch in what is now Catron County, New Mexico. In spite of the efforts of them all, the Morleys gradually lost much of their land; but the children had each a bit of "steer-money" for a good education. Agnes grew up on a horse, and was doing virtually a cowhand's work when she was sent East to school at fourteen. Her education was later continued at the University of Michigan and at Stanford. In 1899 she was married to Newton Cleaveland and became a "visiting Californian," as she says, in view of the fact that she still counts New Mexico home.

Many years ago Mrs. Cleaveland used to write successful "westerns," and was influential in directing Eugene Manlove Rhodes into a literary career. After a long lapse, she was recently persuaded to complete her own life story and to enter it in the Houghton Mifflin contest. It is published as a Life in America Prize Book.

No Life for a Lady is an account of the author's childhood and youth on the ranch. The rest of her career—her education, marriage,

homemaking, motherhood—she touches lightly or omits entirely. With skill she selects the typical and colorful episodes of her cattle range days, and weaves them into a sort of chronological, topical pattern that leads the reader on with a surprising amount of suspense. The first two-thirds of the book, I think, is more entertaining than the later chapters, partly because she devotes overmuch space toward the end to her brother's activities. However, autobiographies have a way of "petering out" at the last. Witness the disappointing conclusion of *The Education of Henry Adams* and of Mary Austin's great *Earth Horizon*.

Mrs. Cleaveland recounts her youthful triumphs and mishaps with the easy assurance of the born tale-teller. Rarely has a woman so successfully mastered the art of telling frontier anecdotes. One has to re-read the book carefully to realize how rich it is in jokes and yarns, some of them well-worn folk material like the tale of Johnny Gollymike and the hant, which I have heard told with very slight variations in the hills of Stewart County, Tennessee.

Agnes Morley Cleaveland is the kind of American that has flourished on every frontier, vigorous and independent and bold. There must have been many other women like her, but very few have possessed her literary ability. *No Life for a Lady* is a good book, and good for you. I recommend it to all present-day Americans, and in particular to those who are fainthearted.

REBECCA W. SMITH

In My Mother's House, by Ann Nolan Clark. Illustrated by Velino Herrera. New York: The Viking Press, 1941. \$2.00.

In this book for children about the Tesuque Pueblo Indians, Mrs. Clark has done a good job and Velino Herrera's illustrations are charming. It should please all children.

It is particularly pleasant for me to make these comments, since I feel like a sort of mother to the book. It was I who first told Mrs. Clark at the Writers' Round Table Conference in Las Vegas that Indian children especially like "rhyme and rhythm," immediately before she entered the Indian Service and began teaching in Tesuque. And it was in my living room at the Santa Fe Indian Boarding School in 1918 that Velino Shije—later Velino Herrera—first painted Indian pictures as a lad

of thirteen, dressed in a black sateen shirt, which was a fine background for gay ties. During those three years that he painted daily in my home, we became great friends, naturally, so it is with delight that I view and enjoy these present illustrations of *In My Mother's House*, the proceeds of which have enabled him to make a "down payment" on an automobile for his family of industrious wife and three growing children.

But even if I were not prejudiced in its favor, the book deserves the immediate success which it has been accorded all over the country. The facts are authentic, which is not always true in books for children, and Mrs. Clark has the real Indian rhythm, gained from poems written in her classes by the Indian children themselves. It is also not too full of detailed information, but touches only the few entertaining highlights that children will grasp and enjoy.

In the book, she tells of the building of the house, the harvest, corn grinding, the closeness of the houses, Indian dances, council meetings, planting, irrigating, erosion, the value of land to the Indians, horses, cattle, sheep and goats, piñon nut gathering, wood hauling, herb collecting, hair washing, pottery, and wild life.

The title, with its universal appeal of home, has been wisely chosen. All of the verse is appealing. I shall quote a few choice bits:

See, brown fields,
 The sun shines for you;
 The sun will warm you,
 And make you happy.
 Soon the rains will come
 And wet you,
 And give you water
 For your baby corn seeds sleeping.
 The sun will call the corn seeds;
 The rain will call the corn seeds;
 They will push up;
 Little corn seeds will push up,
 Up through the broken ground,
 Little corn seeds growing.

And:

Lakes
 Are the holding-places
 For water,
 As the fireplace

Is the hold-place
For fire,
As the plaza
Is the hold-place
For people.

Also:

I have heard
That clouds gather
In the mountains,
And that rainbows
Make bridges
Over them.

I have heard
That mountains
Are the home
Of the winds
And the night.

Perhaps these things are true;
I have heard them.

I heartily recommend *In My Mother's House*.

ELIZABETH WILLIS DEHUFF

Mustangs and Cow Horses, edited by J. Frank Dobie, Mody C. Boatright, Harry H. Ransom. Austin: The Texas Folk-Lore Society, 1940. \$2.50.

Golden Mirages, by Phillip A. Bailey. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1940. \$3.00.

Goldboat, by Belle Turnbull. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940. \$2.00.

The galloping grandchildren of conquistadores' proud stallions; old Pegleg Smith stumping across the desert searching for his three gold buttes dark against a changing skyline; a goldboat "mad, unpredictable, pitching and wagging her head, spitting her tailings into the sump." There you have three books fairly oozing the romance of the West, of the Texas plains, the deserts of Arizona, the placer mines of Colorado. Enough western magic there to set a tourist to seeing visions of wild

white pacers behind every mesquite bush, golden treasure in every dry wash.

The Dobie book is a compilation of all the lore old-time westerners have ever thought or written about the range horse. Mr. Dobie says he selected his material not as choice literary treatments of the subject. Rather he tapped the rich and sometimes raw sources of old-timers' tales of the western horse to introduce to his readers these mustangs as personalities who helped make Texas history. And before you've finished with Black Kettle, Peepy-Jenny, Corazon and company, you'll find Mr. Dobie has done an excellent job of introduction. Such a job that you'll feel like going up to shake hands with the next cow pony you see grazing on the mesa, so intimately acquainted have you become with the family of range horse.

Yet in spite of his emphasis on the horse per se, Mr. Dobie's collection of anecdotes breathes with the underlying spirit of early Texas, its men as well as its horses. The story of Canebrake is typical. Canebrake, that fiery horse of the piney woods, snorting the unconquerable spirit of Texas in Reconstruction days, stamped to death a carpetbagging sheriff, and then won his freedom in a carpetbaggers' court of law to the click-click of great pocket knives menacingly thumbled by a Texas audience.

Mr. Dobie and his co-editors have certainly assembled a mass of material on the subject of the range horse. But in arrangement of this material the book is like one of its own wild mustangs, more kick in the rear than in the front. The first chronicles are devoted entirely to mustang genealogy and methods of capturing these wild herds. There's the usual typical touch of range man's callousness in the cool accounts of capture, too often concluded with a statement like this: "my bullet instead of creasing him, broke his neck, and the magnificent blue mustang dropped dead." And even in early days methods were boringly standardized, so that the book grows a bit wearisome in detail—so much detail that the most tender-footed reader ought to be able to go out and capture a few herds for himself if the galloping ghosts still ranged the mesas. It's a relief when Mr. Dobie turns from capture or slaughter to horse anecdotes. Yet all in all the editors have done well by mustang history and have made sense to the old saying: "In Texas the history of the horse is equally as important as that of his master."

Just as gold is more enticing to most people than horses, so Mr.

Bailey's *Golden Mirages* should hold the casual reader's interest better than Mr. Dobie's mustangs. Mr. Bailey, writing in the most plain and convincing way in the world, brings romantic visions of lost gold mines and massy golden treasures swimming before your eyes. In fact, the author himself must have been a bit apprehensive after he finished his book, alarmed lest he had made his maps and stories so authentic that they might start a long line of feverish gold seekers into the wilderness. So he concludes with a serious warning of the dangers that lurk among the burning reaches of mirage-swept sands for unwary gold hunters.

Pegleg Smith is the eternal desert rat who stumbles on golden nuggets at the summit of some dark hill, only to lose his landmarks and forever after wander the ways of the desert, seeking, seeking. Castañeda wrote in his narrative of the search for the Seven Cities of Cíbola "while they did not find riches, they found a place in which to search." This statement, according to Mr. Bailey, applies as well today to the many tales of the desert as it did in 1540, if it is made to read "they found gold, and having lost it, we now have a place in which to search." *Golden Mirages* amply supplies its readers with those mysterious places in which to search. It is not a book for the man with treasure-lust in his veins, unless he can leave his office chair or fireside to follow where Mr. Bailey's maps so urgently beckon.

The subject of Belle Turnbull's story in verse, *Goldboat*, is fascinating: an old steam gold dredge held fast in the Great Divide above a fortune in gold, not lost but unclaimed. The author's medium does not seem at first as happy as her subject. There's a Robert Service roll to her thunder of words, her rough language of the mine and mountain men seems too self-consciously rude, it swaggers a bit, as women did years ago when they first wore slacks in public. But as the novel in verse rolls on, its stride grows more natural. There's a thrilling swing to lines which take a driller's report and stamp out a rhythm of gold. The plot is unimportant: the honest young engineer building his goldboat with blood, sweat, and curses, the beautiful daughter of the unscrupulous mine promoter, the engineer's honor versus watered stock and porcelain-delicate love, and the mountain girl, Leafy, who gives honor a helping hand. Leafy receives the most tender line in *Goldboat*—"she is as quiet as a balsam spreading/ she is not pretty/ she is woman."

MARGARET PAGE HOOD

Utah, a Guide to the State, compiled by Workers of the Writers Program of the Works Projects Administration for the State of Utah. New York: Hastings House, 1941. \$2.50.

The volumes in the Guide Series in America are, first of all, group enterprises, solid pieces of work that have used the total resources of a community. The expert, the man with the hoe, a mass of records gathered from obscure attics and archives alike have all gone to produce these books. The Utah Guide follows the general pattern of the series in suggesting what to take with one on a vacation trip to the state, then launches seriously into all the facets of background, gives descriptions of cities and highways and dugways, with planned tours by road and rail well described, and goes on to a discussion of parks and primitive areas. The generous selection of pictures will encourage many readers to a thorough perusal of the book—readers who would begin with only a casual dip.

Necessarily the Guides have stressed the differentness of each section of America. Utah, so long a subject of moral and political controversy in the United States, emerges somewhat too readily as a state still bearing the earmarks of "peculiarity." For cursory acquaintance this is perhaps unavoidable and not too objectionable, but it seems a little unnecessary to find the Utah Guide at the outset remarking that most visitors now betray no disappointment at finding Mormons hornless. In the case of Idaho, the Guide managed to explode some of the fixed notions of what a frontier people were like, and this was a contribution to understanding as well as to curiosity.

But once past the section on the contemporary scene and the pride displayed there in the difference between Mormons and the rest of mankind, the Utah writers seem to have done a very thorough piece of work. Utah, with its wild mountains and highly eroded deserts, is unusually rich in spectacular scenery, and it is rich also in social history—prehistoric, Indian, and immigrant Mormon. The description of scenic attractions is well handled, and due space has been given to agriculture, mining, and industry, and to the purely scientific accounts of geological and other phenomena. Ethnological data on Indians are well represented both as to space and picture delineation, but "Utah," for most people, is almost synonymous with "Mormon."

The history section is largely devoted to Mormon history and is particularly well done. Most treatises have leaned to overemphasis

upon either the good or bad, depending upon prejudice; so the fair balance maintained in the Guide is refreshing and important. The compilers have not hesitated to distinguish between the myth taught in the Church and the historical fact, as for instance in the case of Brigham Young's visions of Salt Lake Valley as "the place" to settle; Young had studied all that was known of the region before ever leading his people westward in the great and continuous trek that ended so fortunately for the Church as an institution. On the other hand, the compilers do not hesitate to give credit for the accomplishment of so vast and complex a colonization to the able leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints. The Guide mentions that the Church is conservative and that members do not feel the need of doing something about the social problems that face them; and this in spite of the fact that Utah, in proportion to resources, admittedly supports more people than Japan and that every fourth person in the state has received relief since the beginning of Federal aid. The much publicized relief program of the Church is no answer to the need of providing for a population far in excess of resources in their present distribution.

LORENE PEARSON

A Field Guide to Western Birds, by Roger Tory Peterson. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1941. \$2.75.

Although several field guides to western birds have appeared through the years, this new book by Peterson is the only one that can rightfully lay claim to such title in that it is the only guide that actually covers all the birds in the entire region west of the Rocky Mountains. In 1934 the same author published a highly creditable book entitled "A Field Guide to the Birds," which covered all North American species east of the Great Plains. Nevertheless, the present book is a distinct improvement over the former in that more attention is paid to voice. Some of the songs are interpreted by the use of a system of symbols so well developed by A. A. Saunders. The treatment is simple, direct, and complete. The author has worked out a system of identification which stresses the distinguishing characteristics of birds when seen at a distance. This is done by both descriptions and pattern diagrams, all species being pictured in one way or another. While there are only six pages of full color, these are used with discretion wherever color renders

identification more easy. The author takes the position that a consideration of color is often an unnecessary, if not confusing, factor in identification and uses it therefore sparingly. In the color plates true bird colors are poorly reproduced, but from a practical standpoint this is not a serious flaw since they do show color values and color relationships. Most field guides are difficult for the beginner to use, but this book with its emphasis upon critical field characters and avoidance of confusing detail makes possible its use by the layman. This is especially noticeable in the stress upon shape of body and body parts.

Despite the simple treatment and strong effort made to render the book useful to the beginner, the work is scholarly and carefully executed in every way, being sufficiently comprehensive to interest the seasoned student of birds. Pains are taken to indicate confusing groups with which the beginner is likely to have trouble and to clarify such situations as with the gulls (pp. 69-71), the flycatchers (p. 116), and the juncos (p. 189).

An excellent feature of the work is that the range of species is regularly instead of occasionally given as in many books on ornithology. However, rather too much reliance is placed upon the restriction of the various species to certain life zones. Anyone who has given much attention to the study of birds in the field is aware that few species remain within the confines of any one life zone.

E. F. CASTETTER