

BOOK NOTICES

GENERAL

La administración española. By EDUARDO GARCÍA DE ENTERRÍA. Madrid, 1961. Instituto de Estudios Políticos. Colección Estudios de Administración. No. XXIV. Notes. Index. Pp. 239. Paper.

This volume is intended, as the author indicates in his introduction, to present Spanish public administration not as something akin to a business enterprise, but as an organization at the service of the political community. His "Leitmotiv" is the formation of the Spanish administration on the Napoleonic model; he intends to discover where certain structural limitations are properly Spanish or derive from the Napoleonic system.

His purpose is admirably achieved. The historical background appears in an essay on Oliván's classic study, the "clearest exposition of the Napoleonic system." Succeeding chapters on organic structure and peripheric administration were originally introductions to the Spanish translations of Moonéy's *Principles of Organization* and Chapman's *The Prefect in Provincial France*. Stressing the "destruction of active, deliberative, and consultative functions" under the Napoleonic prefectural system, the author points out how the appointment of civil governors under a spoils system in Spain has eliminated some of these evils and permitted the province to occupy a central position in local government. He looks to ultimate full citizen participation in local life.

There is, the author asserts, a definite need for reform; Spain is being driven to eliminate what is "degenerative and pathological" in its administration to preserve what is "of positive value." Discussing American administrative science, he sees a new emphasis on leadership; Spain he finds woefully deficient in institutional leadership. He

would revise the system, but cautions against its destruction.

Those not losing patience with the involved style will find this a very valuable introduction to the subject.

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Ensayos de Norte a Sur: Ortega, Becker, Ayala, Azuela, Reyes, Ferrater Mora, Guanes, Korn, Blanco Amor, Roggiano. By HUGO RODRÍGUEZ-ALCALÁ. México, 1960. Ediciones de Andrea. Colección Studium, núm. 27. Pp. 214. Paper.

Hugo Rodríguez-Alcalá, Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Washington, demonstrates clearly in these collected essays the keen perception of literary values, comprehension of important philosophical questions, and remarkable intellectual versatility which have already earned the respect of colleagues who know his work.

Students of philosophy will appreciate his illuminating essays on José Ferrater Mora and Alejandro Korn, and his penetrating study on the existentialism of Sartre and of Ortega y Gasset is outstanding.

Although historiographers in this country will find little or nothing new in the essay on Carl Becker, the explanation and appraisal of Becker's approach will prove interesting and valuable to Spanish American scholars.

The essay on antithesis in *Los de abajo* serves as a model of the *explication de texte* technique applied to a major work of modern Mexican fiction and throws more light on the literary qualities of a novel which, like many other Spanish American novels of this century, needs precisely this kind of thorough, intelligent, critical appraisal. His contribution to knowledge of Francisco de Ayala is equally valuable.

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