

physician, but he stepped almost immediately into journalism and then obtained his degree as bachelor of laws, in the meantime entering political life.

In literary style he is romantic and conservative, very conscious of the Portuguese and Latin Catholic background of Brazilian culture. He is, in fact, an excellent modern example of that most persistent figure of Brazilian cultural and political life—the orator imbued with the classical tradition in history and literature.

In the matter of content, his political addresses are naturally of greater interest, since he discusses pressing contemporary problems—the modernization of the ports and of the coal mining industry in Santa Catarina, the national road-building program. He displays a real acquaintance with the details of the administrative problems involved, a gift of expression and a consciousness of his responsibilities as an important actor in the Brazilian political scene. His friends bemoaned his early death as a loss to his country. It is perhaps also to be regretted that his energies were too much dispersed (also in the Brazilian tradition of the public man with a classical education) for him to have achieved the greatest results in the short time available to him.

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Fui secretário de Getúlio Vargas: memórias dos anos de 1926-1954. By LUIZ VERGARA. Pôrto Alegre, 1960. Editora Globo. Pp. 248. Paper.

Luiz Vergara served as an aide on Getúlio Vargas's personal staff from 1930 to 1945. He was loyal and devoted to his chief. This book presents his memoirs of that period as they relate to Vargas. Also included are chapters on the early stage of Vargas's political career in Rio Grande do Sul from about 1926 to 1930.

For the historian, such a book engenders certain expectations. In it one hopes to find new light thrown upon

the crucial events of the period, such as the campaign of 1930, the Paulista revolution of 1932, the establishment of the Estado Novo in 1937, and the coup which removed Vargas from power in 1945.

This work which consists of a series of chronicles and biographical sketches of Vargas and the men close to him such as Oswaldo Aranha, Antonio Carlos, and Gois Monteiro falls short of those expectations. It is, however, revealing of the personality and motivations of the subject, his working habits, desires, and aspirations. In it are revealed and confirmed many facets of the character of this controversial figure as he manipulated different people, faced crises, and played the game of politics with infinite skill and magnanimity of spirit.

It is, therefore, an intimate biography rather than an historical narrative. Nevertheless, it is well deserving of the attention of anyone interested in this period of Brazilian history which Vargas so completely dominated.

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Oscar Niemeyer. By STAMO PAFADAKI. New York, 1960. George Braziller, Inc. The Masters of World Architecture Series. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliographical note. Index. Pp. 127. \$4.95.

Professor Papadaki has already published two studies of Niemeyer's work, based on long personal acquaintance, and was the obvious person to contribute this slim volume, with its 80 pages of photographs, plans and drawings, to a notable series. The Ministry of Education building in Rio was Niemeyer's first great opportunity (in 1936, at the preliminary planning stage, he had sat at the feet of Le Corbusier). In 1957 he became chief architect for Brasilia, the greatest opportunity of our day. Here one may follow the stages in his "transformation of architecture into a joyous event," with the increasing emphasis on the non-functional, on the imagina-