A. A. Rodrigues

at King’s College, London. A bibliography of local history came out of the Lisbon National Library. A catalogue of MSS. was issued by the Coimbra University Library.

BASQUE

By W. J. Entwistle

The Hamitic theory of Basque origins has received some shrewd blows. Following on E. Zyhalr’s demonstration that Schuchardt’s methods could be used to prove the Hamitic origin of German(!), M. Cohen has pointed out that the term ‘Hamitic’ ‘ne répond à aucune distinction définie’. Both writers insist on the contradictions in the speech habits of the Basques and of certain African peoples. The one attraction of the theory of African origin is that it has some support in archaeology. There were migrations from Africa to Spain before the historical period opened, and though language is independent of race, it is not independent of speakers. To connect the Caucasus with Spain requires complex hypotheses which have no ascertainable basis of fact. R. Lafon writes, however, on ‘Mediterranean’ terms for ‘mint’ in Basque, using Caucasian parallels. The RIEV publishes further instalments of Humboldt’s Prüfung der Untersuchungen über die Urbewohner His-


67 Subsidios para a bibliografia da historia local portuguesa, Lisboa, Biblioteca Nacional, 1933.


**Basque**

**paniens.** Humboldt's notes on Astarloa's grammar are published by J. Garate.³

W. Meyer-Lübke's discussion of *f* in Basque, Spanish, Gascon and other Romance tongues is obscurely expressed, but of considerable importance.⁴ L. Spitzer discusses the diminutive and affective value attributed to *ch* in Basque, and the use of that sound in Spanish pet names.⁵ G. Bähr continues his catalogue of verbal forms, and G. Lacombe writes on Schuchardt's theory of the passivity of the Basque conjugation.⁶ J. Garate continues to make additions to the Basque dictionary,⁷ and L. de Eleizalde pursues his toponymical studies.⁸ Various etymologies have been proposed in the *RIEV*,⁹ and there has appeared a short treatise on versification.¹⁰

The most important textual undertaking is the reprint of D'Oihenart's *Proverbes Basques*.¹¹ A translation of St Matthew into the dialect of Vidangoz should be of help to foreign students of Basque,¹² and there are several modern texts, novelistic or doctrinal, which represent the living language, though not always with dialectal purity.¹³ P. Donostia and Miss Violet Alford write on Basque music.¹⁴ The *RIEV* has received a large number of contributions on historical topics, chiefly of local and personal interest, together with an article on sixteenth-century costumes by P. Garmendia, and an essay on Basque paintings by

³ G. de Humboldt, 'Extracto del Plan de lenguas de Astarloa', *RIEV*, xxvi, 1935.


⁵ 'Les diminutifs basques avec *ch*’, *RIEV*, xxv, 1934.


⁸ 'Listas alfabeticas de voces toponomásticas vascas’, *RIEV*, xxv, 1934.

⁹ *Urtzi, agur, Azagra, katamotz, elikatu, Aspeitia, Azcoitia*. In the last two the word *ur* has been forgotten; the townships are defined as higher or lower on the Urola, and not with reference to Izaraitz.


¹¹ *RIEV*, xxvi, 1935, from the copy in the Bibliothèque Nationale.

¹² By P. Hualde Mayo in *RIEV*, commencing in xxv, 1934.


¹⁴ On the *Marcha de San Ignacio*, the *zorzaiko*, and the stringed drum, all in *RIEV*, xxvi, 1935.