

BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES

A History of Secondary Education in Pennsylvania. By James Mulhern, University of Pennsylvania. (Philadelphia: Published by the Author. Pp. xv, 714. Illustrations. \$5.00).

The first impression of the reader in perusing this volume is that the author has done a great amount of research in working out his topic. A careful reading of the book confirms that impression. The author spent several years gathering his material and traveled extensively over the state seeking manuscripts and all types of records that would throw light on his subject. The result is an excellent, well-documented account, in considerable detail, of the progress of secondary education in Pennsylvania from its beginnings in the colonial period to the close of the nineteenth century, with brief references to present day developments and practices.

The work is organized into three major divisions, each division dealing chiefly with the type of institution dominant during the particular period: the religious and private schools of the colonial period, the academy of the middle period, and finally the public high school, which in time superseded the academy. All phases of educational theory and practice within the field of secondary education in Pennsylvania to the end of the nineteenth century have been set forth, including aims, curricula, methods, management, and problems. There is also depicted the social and economic background for each of the three periods in order that our educational institutions and the changes that have marked their development might be better understood. Unfortunately, the author has been handicapped in seeking data on the economic, social, political, religious, and cultural aspects of the environment because so many phases of Pennsylvania history have not been adequately treated by historians. In spite of this limitation, the accounts of the environmental background greatly aid the reader to understand the institutions of the past and present, and especially to see that changes in the environment have brought changes in ideas, ideals, attitudes and the interpretation of life and its needs, with their results upon educational institutions and practices.

The chapter on colonial private schools has been supplemented by a chapter on the development of private schools from the Revolution to recent times. This is a marked contribution to educational history, for hitherto little has been done on this phase of the history of educational institutions in Pennsylvania or many other states. Separate treatment has also been given to the subject of secondary education for girls. In a sprightly chapter, some of the early conceptions regarding the nature of woman, the changing position of woman together with the changing educational theories and attitudes regarding her, coeducation, and secondary schools for girls, are discussed.

Dr. Mulhern has recorded his findings in a direct and lucid style. The illustrations, which include examples of exercises of early students, extracts from student journals, and school charters, give flavor and atmosphere to

the story of the schools of the past. The footnotes in double columns and the well-prepared index alone testify to the care which has been spent on this volume. The seventy-four page bibliography, which gives the location of important documents and records will be of much value to students. The study is a scholarly and an opportune work of research and a mine of accurate and well arranged information on a phase of the history of educational institutions.

ARTHUR C. BINING

Germantown, 1683-1933. By Edward W. Hocker. (Philadelphia: Published by the Author, 1933. Pp. 332. \$5.00).

No more admirable model could be found for one who may contemplate writing local history than Edward W. Hocker's *Germantown, 1683-1933*. Mr. Hocker is, to be sure, fortunate in his subject. Germantown, to a greater degree than almost any other of numerous communities absorbed by the Philadelphia Consolidation of 1854, has preserved a flavor of individuality, and is still a city within a city. Continuous residence of old families there, the maintenance of old institutions, a Site and Relic Society formerly, and an up-to-date local Historical Society today, have all contributed to a permanence of traditions. The traditions themselves of the district, the picturesque circumstances of its founding, the occurrence there of a spectacular battle during the Revolutionary War, the retreat thither of many officers of the government during seasons of pestilence when Philadelphia was capital of the new nation, the proximity of the famous Wissahickon Creek, the birthplaces nearby of David Rittenhouse and of Louisa May Alcott, are of a kind which naturally have been remembered locally with pride.

Mr. Hocker has arranged his story well and has given it continuity, as a glance at its chapter headings at once makes obvious—Founding of the Community, The Colonial Period, The Revolutionary War, Emerging from Isolation, Borough Government (1844), Part of a Great City, The Twentieth Century. From his own and local memory and from the records of which he is custodian or which he knows so well how to locate and check, he has so verified his abundant facts that around those major things which everyone knows or should know he has realistically assembled that infinitude of little things which have made the community home as well as a place of livelihood to generations of individuals. The passing of the German spoken by the primitive settlers as a language of daily life and divine worship, the ways of old time railroad conductors, political greed scandalous then as now, the coming of moving pictures, the rise and fall of remarkable industries, like the local silk industry of a hundred years ago, are but a few of the minor things that have made life real and earnest for this as for many a community. One might wish that the hospitable social life and the charm of characteristic architecture and lovely old possessions might have been further dwelt upon or better still pictured, but that has been adequately done elsewhere. What is here offered is an authentic incisive account of organic community growth, a people's history, that both for matter and arrangement will be of interest far beyond the locality which gave it birth. The book is carefully

and clearly printed, gives a list of authorities, and has what should be, but apparently is not always, considered indispensable, a complete index of names and topics.

JOHN C. MENDENHALL

The Colonial Agency of Pennsylvania, 1712-1757. By Mabel Pauline Wolff. (Philadelphia: Published by the Author, 1933. Bryn Mawr College Dissertation. Pp. ix, 243. \$1.10).

Although this monograph is concerned only with the period 1712 to 1757, Dr. Wolff has made an investigation of the subject from 1682 to 1775, so that the work as presented is based on a knowledge of the entire period of Pennsylvania colonial history. Considering the agency as falling into three periods, the first from 1682 to 1712, during which the affairs of the colony were handled in Great Britain by the founder himself, and the third, from 1757 to 1775, during which Benjamin Franklin was the chief representative of the province in the home country, Dr. Wolff has decided that the neglected period, as it were, is that from 1712 to 1757, during which time "the names of the London Agents of Pennsylvania are unfamiliar to the general reader, in some cases so little known as not to be found in a *Dictionary of Biography*, English or American, accorded at most a line or two in some special treatises of colonial history."

From 1712 to 1731 the conduct of colonial affairs in London was largely in the hands of the proprietors, with the Assembly of Pennsylvania reluctant to establish a permanent agency, although the charter demanded that a resident agent be maintained in the home country. The real history of the agency proper dates from 1731, when, by resolution of the Assembly, Ferdinand Paris, London solicitor and well known expert on colonial boundary disputes, was designated as agent. Until 1740 the indefatigable Paris served both proprietors and Assembly. By that year, however, the views of the proprietors and the Quaker Assembly had diverged so greatly, chiefly on matters concerned with the defense of the colony, that no longer could one man serve both interests, and the Assembly by resolution appointed as its representative Richard Partridge, a London merchant. From this time on proprietors and Assembly had separate agents. Paris served the Penns until his death, while Partridge continued as sole agent for the Assembly until 1751, when he received as his assistant, Robert Charles. Charles, who had an intimate knowledge of Pennsylvania politics and conditions from a residence of fourteen years in the province in various official capacities, was advanced to joint-agent in 1754, the joint-agency continuing until the appointment of Franklin in 1757.

Throughout the discussion one is impressed chiefly by the fact that to the time of the appointment of Franklin, none of the agents was a true partisan in the strictest sense of the word, but was rather a business man who served his principal faithfully as a business proposition. The numerous instances in which both proprietary and popular agents coöperated for what was considered the welfare of both interests is quite illuminating, as is also the fact that the Penns, in order to retain the province and their charter privileges,

at times actually seemed to support the popular cause against their own private interests.

Although thoroughly agreeing with Dr. Wolff on the division of the history of the agency into three periods, the reviewer feels that perhaps a brief chapter might well have been included, tracing the activities of Benjamin Franklin, thus giving a more rounded treatment. Perhaps, too, the work might have been rendered more readable by the inclusion in footnotes or in the appendix of some of the source material quoted in the text.

The documentation, while in places a bit unorthodox, is thorough, and both documentation and text show the result of a most painstaking and laborious examination of materials available on this side of the Atlantic. The bibliography would be more valuable to the reader if it were critical rather than inclusive. There is no index, a defect balanced to some extent by an enlarged table of contents.

WILLIAM A. ITTER

Pennsylvania the Golden. By Herman L. Collins. (Harrisburg: National Historical Association, Inc., 1933. Pp. viii, 131. \$1.50).

Mr. Collins has given us in this little volume a very entertaining account of the more striking events of Pennsylvania history, briefly treated. The book is of a popular type and is without documentation, bibliography, and index. Intended for the general public rather than for the scholar, it is written in a breezy, buoyant, journalistic style, and with a fervent enthusiasm for all things Pennsylvanian, tending sometimes to exaggeration of statement. Several errors may be noted, as, for instance, when the author refers to The Pennsylvania State College as an "agricultural school"; and when he gives to Governor Ritner the credit which belongs to Governor Wolf for founding the public school system of the Commonwealth. In the main, however, the book is not only interesting and informing, but is comparatively free from errors. It serves a useful purpose in popularizing Pennsylvania history and will doubtless attract the wide circle of readers which it deserves.

WAYLAND F. DUNAWAY

Dickinson College, 1783-1933. By James Henry Morgan. (Harrisburg: J. Horace McFarland Company, 1933. Pp. 460. Illustrations. \$3.50).

Out of the evening of a long life comes this interesting and readable story of the founding and development of Dickinson College. In giving his work to the public, the author suggests that its readers regard it not as the work of a trained historian nor yet of one who has devoted much time to writing. Rather would he have them view it as the work of a man who has given his life to teaching. Yet, despite this introductory apology, Dr. Morgan is, from one point of view, admirably fitted for the task which the Board of Trustees urged him to assume. For fifty-nine years he has been associated with Dickinson College, as a student, and later as professor and president. It is obvious that few men could be more steeped in the lore, traditions and spirit of the institution whose history is here presented.

Following the failure of an effort to elevate a grammar school, established at Carlisle in 1781, to the rank of an academy, Dr. Benjamin Rush became the most important single factor in the inception of Dickinson College. The author asserts that the founding of the institution represents the realization of a plan for higher education in Pennsylvania—a plan which Rush had envisioned for some time. In view of the fact that for more than thirty years he rendered it devoted service, one is tempted to express regret that the college was not named for him rather than for John Dickinson whose contributions were the weight of his prestige and “a very liberal donation,” the exact amount of which “will probably never be known.”

Several of the earlier chapters are devoted to Dr. Charles Nisbet, the first principal, who was induced by Rush to migrate from Scotland. The author is a rather severe critic of the Scotch educator whom he characterizes as the “wrong man in the wrong country.” Nor does he spare Rush who, he asserts, “unwittingly misled Nisbet” in persuading him to come to America. There is a most interesting chapter on the early alumni.

The remainder of the volume is confined to a narrative of the administrations of a long list of executives, a chapter on the law school, and an appendix in which are discussed literary societies, fraternities, publications and athletics. The book is supplied with an adequate index and the illustrative material is excellent. It is not documented nor is there a bibliography, although the author indicates in the body of the text, from time to time, the major sources upon which he has relied.

Despite defects in organization and balance, the book will carry an appeal to various groups of readers. To the friends and alumni of Dickinson it will be held in inestimable affection. To those who are interested in the beginnings and development of higher education in Pennsylvania, it will be most welcome. And to all those who admire high courage in the face of great adversity, the book will come as an inspiration. Taken as a whole, this history of Dickinson College is a valuable contribution to the history of education in Pennsylvania and Dr. Morgan is to be congratulated.

B. M. HERMANN

Imaginary Conversations with Franklin. By William Cabell Bruce. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1933. Pp. 120. \$2.00).

To recreate the characters of historic personages is a most difficult task. The writer is limited by the established facts of their lives, and his problem is to present these in such a way as to convince his audience of the truth of his picture. Here he runs afoul of the reader's preconceived ideas which are possibly as well documented as his own. In a dramatic dialogue he must perform the additional feat of making his characters reveal themselves through speech while preserving the illusion of normal conversation.

Mr. Bruce has sought to limn the salient points in the character of Benjamin Franklin—his wisdom, tolerance, humanitarianism, sophistication, and susceptibility to feminine charms—by having him converse with so motley a group as Arthur Lee and Madame Brillon, John Adams and the Countess d'Houdetôt, the Bishop of St. Asaph's and Abigail Adams. He

does this by taking a set of ready-made characteristics produced by historical research and making his subjects exhibit these in their conversations with Franklin. Obviously more is needed than this, for a person is more than the sum total of facts we know about him. John Adams of the drawing room, frank though he may have been, was not the Adams of the *Diary*, and yet Mr. Bruce would have us think so. The pro-American views of the kindly Bishop of St. Asaph's, which caused him years of discomfiture, are so related as to make the reader want to rush off immediately to join the English Speaking Union. The scene reads like World War propaganda. Polite conversation was an art in the eighteenth century, but are we to assume that those who frequented the salon of Madam Helvetius always spoke on the lofty and sententious plane here suggested? Mr. Bruce is most successful in Scene Two, where he gives us an amusing picture of Franklin's suave way of handling the countless adventurers who sought fame and fortune under Washington. One lays down the book wondering whether the dramatist or the novelist can ever hold closely to historical fact and still produce living characters. Must he not give rein to his imagination and take liberties with history?

CARL BRIDENBAUGH

Journal of Travels, Adventures and Remarks of Jerry Church. Edited with Notes by A. Monroe Aurand, Jr. (Harrisburg: The Aurand Press, 1933. Pp. 89. \$2.50).

This is a reprint of a quaint journal, which was first published in 1845. Coming originally from Jerico, New York, Jeremiah Church, the writer of this journal, briefly records his meanderings and adventures in Pennsylvania and in many other sections of the country about a century ago. Mention is made of many early Pennsylvania towns, including Harrisburg, Middletown, Williamsport, and Lewisburg, as well as other American towns, especially Chicago, Washington, and New Orleans. Unfortunately, descriptions, when given, are very sketchy. The work, however, presents excellent glimpses of life during frontier days. The many speculations of Church in various commodities and in land are characteristic of the period in which he lived. His observations on government, intemperance, currency, a central bank, the annexation of Texas, lawyers, and gamblers, make very interesting reading.

A limited edition of this journal has been reprinted. The occasion for the new edition is the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Lock Haven, which was laid out by Church. The reason for the reprinting of the book, according to the editor, is not the hope for profit through its sale, but in order to perpetuate a rare book and it is therefore published because of the editor's interest in local history.

ARTHUR C. BINING

Narrative History of the 109th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania National Guard, 1775-1930. By Lieutenant Colonel William H. Zierdt. (Wilkes-Barre: Special Publication of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 1932. Pp. xxii, 298. Illustrations. Paper, \$2.50; Cloth, \$3.25).

In commemoration of the services rendered by the people of Wilkes-Barre in the prosecution of the nation's wars and the maintenance of peace at home, Colonel Zierdt records the continuous service of the local unit of the present National Guard from the day of its establishment as a Connecticut Regiment to the present.

Less than half of the volume is devoted to the historical narrative which opens with the unfriendly attitude of the Quakers toward military preparedness. This is followed by a brief, but comprehensive account of the beginnings of the Connecticut regiment. The record of the development of this organization includes its work, first as a defense militia against Indians and Pennamites, then as part of the armies of independence, through the various wars that made independence secure and permanent. At times it found itself confronted with the task of maintaining peace in the face of labor troubles and domestic turbulence. An important contribution for the social historian is the attention given to the organization's activities during the "dull . . . times of peace" when the home guard assumed an important position and a share in the life of the community.

The appendices which include a complete roster of all who ever served in the organization is filled with much statistical information. The volume is profusely illustrated with portraits of most of the commanding officers from 1775 to the present. An excellent chronological table adds much to the value of the work, which also contains a brief bibliography and an index.

LEWIS J. DARTER, JR.

