Chronicles of Stephen Foster's Family. By Evelyn Foster Morneweck. 2 v.
(Published for the Foster Hall Collection by the University of Pittsburgh Press, 1944. Pp. 767. $5.00.)

Stephen C. Foster's niece lovingly gathered every recoverable fact concerning her "average Pennsylvania family in the days following the Revolution and in the nineteenth century." In accordance with her plan, as accurately reflected in her title, these two handsomely printed volumes recount every detail of the descendants of Alexander Foster, who about 1725 emigrated from Londonderry, Ireland. The daughter of Morrison Foster, brother of the song writer, Mrs. Morneweck preserved her father's papers, assiduously collected further material and background information, and then after many years' study unified the results of her researches in this history.

The Chronicles deal chiefly with William Barclay Foster and his wife Eliza Clayland Tomlinson after their arrival in 1807 in Pittsburgh. About 1850 Eliza began a series of reminiscences, portions of which are reprinted. In the main, however, the Chronicles are composed of brief preparatory statements for passages from letters, documents, Morrison Foster's biography, and other printed sources. How thoroughly each event is documented may be gathered from the inclusion of an advertisement of the store of Henrietta's husband, whose wellbeing William looked into with fatherly concern on a visit to Warren, Pennsylvania, in 1840.

Stephen is merely one of the eight children of William and Eliza, not the hero of the Chronicles for all the emphasis placed upon the actual birthplace, the dahlia, half-dollar, and clubs honored by or honoring the composer. He makes his entrances and exits as do the others, either because there is a reference in a family letter, a letter by him, or an incident which fits into the chronological record. Yet because Stephen is placed so completely against the total background of his family and environment this work is a useful sourcebook, if not an adequate account of his career. The fullness of the family record and the exhibition of quotations rather than penetrating analyses of characters and situations will deter most readers except specialists from pushing steadfastly through the entire book. There are nearly one hundred illustrations from contemporary paintings, prints, and photographs, as well as reproductions of manuscripts and maps.

Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Harry R. Warfel
Only infrequently is the reading public offered a work on any historical subject of the solidity of this one. Though writings on Lincoln are numbered in the thousands, few writers have attempted to cover more than a single phase of his career by way of exhaustive research and extended labor. In these two volumes is the promise that the completed work in four volumes will stand in a class by itself as an example of the art of the historian skillfully and learnedly applied to a popular subject.

These volumes will, however, hardly appeal strongly to the real or fictitious “popular” reader. The narrative generally moves too slowly and ponderously to meet that test; it is too heavily weighted with documentation and too much given to the consideration of details. It is a unique or an original study. “These chapters have not been made up from other biographies of Lincoln” (I, ix). It is, for the most part, the work of a qualified specialist for the use of serious students.

The author sets forth clearly in the “Preface” his intentions and purposes. “The treatment here offered is conceived both as biography and history. It has been found impossible to present Lincoln's background and his crowded years of leadership except by integration with contemporary movements and thought currents. If history is attempted, the standards of historical craftsmanship must not be neglected” (I, vii). So it follows that, “If sources are diligently reexamined, then by the same token the product may become ‘revisionist’;” and “Certain accepted ideas of Lincoln and his period will probably be upset in the following pages” (I, viii). He disclaims proceeding in an iconoclastic spirit, and does not claim finality of understanding. “The task has been undertaken in some trepidation and in contemplation of the difficulty of attaining authentic truth. New conclusions come not from preconception, assuredly not from a wish to overthrow or destroy... Where clichés have become fixed in the popular mind, the historian’s finding may occasion surprise or even dissatisfaction, but this cannot be avoided. If critics pass the ammunition, that is one of the occupational hazards” (I, viii-ix).

For the two volumes thus far completed, the Gettysburg occasion was selected as offering a convenient terminus. “To recover the Gettysburg Lincoln, to catch up with him, to put him in his full mold, belongs to the agenda of our times. There is a challenge for today in the study of his career as a proof of the meaning and opportunity of democracy. There is need for a further understanding of his grasp of liberal thought, his interest in the common man, his sense of human values, his sympathy for labor, his rising above partisanship, his concept of the statesman’s task in its relation to order in society, and to peace and democracy in the world” (I, xi).

Because he has chosen a subject as broad as the one indicated, the author has found it “necessary at every point to condense, to select, and to leave out a great deal that... [he] has collected” (I, x). This is at once a mark of the strength and of the weakness of such a work. As a mark of strength, it reveals the author’s broad and detailed study; as a mark
of weakness, it allows for the exercise of his selection according to his predilections, or his "frame of reference." That he is not free from predilections—and who is?—seems to be established, especially when he writes: "In the longer run, in song and story, it is the South that has won the decision at Appomattox" (I, 79).

This weakness is most extensively illustrated in the attention given to General McClellan. Granted that there are grounds to warrant a reinterpretation of this general's position, and a reassessment of his abilities and potentialities, it may be questioned whether the time and the space used for these purposes were justified to the end of the better understanding of Lincoln the President.

To those interested in Pennsylvania history, the last chapter, "These Honored Dead," will be of special value as a short but sufficient treatment of Lincoln in his connection with Gettysburg. The author's description of the battle of Gettysburg is adequate, but his view of its significance discloses a slight tendency toward obduracy. "From that hour," he writes, "it [the Confederacy] was to be a receding flood, and writers are expected to expatiate upon Gettysburg as the turning point of the whole war. Such expatiating may be left to others; it will not be reproduced in these pages" (II, 285). To this it may be rejoined that the "high-water-mark" monument has never properly been considered other than as the location of the point of the beginning of the "receding flood." It is to be regretted that the author did not carry his independent study into the matter of the "first defenders," and so have escaped falling into the error of ignoring the appearance of five Pennsylvania companies in Washington on April 18, 1861, while giving credit to Massachusetts troops who arrived the next day (I, 362). On the other hand, his interpretation of the "Altoona Conference" (II, 229-32) should be useful as a corrective of local enthusiasm concerning the nature of that event.

Gettysburg College

ROBERT FORTENBAUGH


There must be many a person who has wanted to make the better acquaintance of Benjamin Franklin through the medium of his writings, but has been daunted by the expense of acquiring, and the space required for storing, a multi-volume edition of his works. To such a one the present volume is likely to prove a godsend. Well printed, compact, helpfully illustrated, and affording a generous selection from the writings of Franklin at a reasonable price, it should prove a welcome addition to many a library. Happily, it is not a condensation. What is reproduced is, for the most part, reproduced in full, though occasionally a significant passage will be extracted from a longer writing. Dr. Goodman has indeed had the compassion on his readers to modernize spelling, punctuation, and capitalization of well-known writings, some of which have been published many times. But those which now appear in print for the first time are presented with all their eighteenth-
century peculiarities. The works of the Philosopher are thus rendered much more accessible without essential sacrifice of their integrity.

The most casual perusal of the table of contents serves to reveal the amazing versatility of this man who lived so richly for eight and a half decades. The topics range from Pennsylvania fireplaces to the constitution of the British Empire; from lightning rods to treatment for the gout; from the cause of colds to daylight saving; from God and immortality to matters which were usually not included in nineteenth century editions of his works. Philosopher, editor, publisher, citizen, philanthropist, scientist, inventor, business man, statesman, diplomat; Franklin is revealed in all these roles and more. Throughout this amazing range of subject matter are found the hard-headed common sense and the sly humor which were so typical of the author. It is true that some of his beliefs sound naïve today, for Franklin was limited, even though he was not confined, by the knowledge of his era. But one will not pity him overmuch for this. One is more apt to envy him the grasp which he acquired of so many diverse fields of knowledge. Even one of Franklin's versatile genius could have no hope of so doing today.

It will always be a matter for regret that Franklin never completed his autobiography, and particularly that he did not bring it up to date when first he undertook the task at the age of sixty-five, with memory and mental powers unimpaired. The later installments were notable achievements for an aged man who was far from well, but they do not sustain the standard of the first. In any event, they do not bring the story so very far beyond the threshold of Franklin's career as a public man. Dr. Goodman has remedied this lacuna in some measure by prefacing his volume with a sketch of Franklin's life. No other pen, however, could by any chance supply that which the Sage never found opportunity to write. What one might have had for these latter years by way of factual information and penetrating insight is indicated well enough by the Autobiography as it stands. It constitutes, appropriately enough, the first of Dr. Goodman's selections. Those who encounter it for the first time in this format have a pleasurable experience awaiting them, while to those who know it well the opportunity for a reperusal will be scarcely less welcome. The obvious self-esteem of a self-made man might be a bit cloying but for two considerations. In the first place, Franklin had earned the right to think well of himself; in the second place, a wholesome measure of self-criticism elevates his self-appreciation above mere smugness. Drawing upon his own experience, Franklin is seeking to set before the youth good examples to be followed and bad examples to be shunned. He finds more of the former than of the latter. So, presumably, would any other competent scrutinizer of his career.

University of Pennsylvania

LEONIDAS DODSON


Samuel Hahnemann's life illustrates the persecution and frustration of an innovator. After medical study in Leipzig and Vienna, he began medical
practice in 1780. From then until his death in Paris in 1843, he developed his medical theories, moved from one German city to another, and quarreled with other physicians and with apothecaries, who finally forced his removal from Leipzig. These facts, together with the more personal aspects of his life with a termagant wife, and his later marriage to a Frenchwoman, nearly fifty years his junior, are given detailed attention in this biography.

Hahnemann's position in medical history differs from that of other pioneers in that he never received recognition for his contributions. He was subjected to constant interference throughout his life and after his death was slighted by a profession which continued to define homeopathy as "the incomprehensible science of infinitesimal doses." As late as 1925, Professor August Bier was censured by the Berlin medical profession for attempting to rehabilitate Hahnemann's reputation. Bier credited him with such ideas as preventive bacterial inoculations, the treatment of allergies by modern methods, and the development of colloidal research. To these, Gumpert adds important contributions to hygiene, simplification of prescriptions, attacks on apothecary methods, and treatment of insanity. He emphasizes, particularly, the realization of the individual nature of disease, while noting the irony of Hahnemann's presentation of a medical "system" designed to destroy all others. Hahnemann's *Organon*, published in 1810, contains his main theses: like cures like, efficacy of small doses, and the need to isolate and test curative factors. His general approach, given commendable attention by Gumpert, was far more scientific than that of most of his contemporaries.

Such a story needs to be told. Unfortunately, its telling is marred by some defects. Gumpert gives Hahnemann an undeserved singularity. It does not lessen a man's importance to acknowledge the contributions of others, for, as such projects as the atomic bomb shows, no man stands alone in the development of an idea or ideas. For instance, Gumpert exaggerates the importance of Hahnemann's use of "moral treatment" in one case of insanity. Both Rush and Pinel used and publicized the method, and Quakers had long advocated it. In this connection, there is too little attention given to Hahnemann's conclusions based on insufficient study, a fault which furnished much grist for his critics' mills. Again, Gumpert makes too much of Hahnemann's persecution. A man who reaches success at 60, at least outside his profession, and dies amidst the acclaim of Parisians is somewhat less than a martyr. Others, equally if not more deserving, have not attained such heights. To me, the most annoying feature of the book is a tendency to "purple prose." I found it hard to read of approaching birth in the following passage:

A night came when Hahnemann laid her [his wife, Henriette] tenderly on their bed, and they clung to each other in a long and silent embrace, alone for the last time—no, not alone, for already they were watched and guarded by the invisible new life which it was their duty to watch and guard.
If, I repeat, the reader can overlook the faults of hero-worship, exaggeration, and over-writing, the biography is well worth an examination.

New York City

HENRY BURNELL SHAFER

Scientific Thought in the American Colleges, 1638-1800. By Theodore Hornberger. [Project No. 67 of the University Research Institute, University of Texas.] (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1945. Pp. 108. Paper, $1.00; cloth, $1.50.)

At a time when the discovery of atomic energy demands a reconsideration of our educational policies, a history of the teaching of science in America from the founding of Harvard College to the beginning of the nineteenth century is especially welcome.

Following his brief description of the early American colleges, Professor Hornberger gives an account of their entrance requirements, which are found to be very low in science in comparison with our modern standards. The curriculums, reduced to semester hours of credit, as well as the professorships, show a small but increasing interest in scientific subjects. His investigations of the meaning of the subjects of the curriculum give little more than a vague idea of their conceptual contents. From the very first, it was recognized that modern science is based upon experiments, and the author considers that the colleges made serious attempts to procure adequate apparatus.

Professor Hornberger’s account of the teaching of science, to which only ten pages are devoted, is very inadequate. He found that science at first was accepted by influential thinkers as a support to theology, although a few recognized it as an injury to their religious faith. The thinking of the men who wrote our Constitution was partly along Newtonian lines. No mention is made by the author of the tragic fact that the political economists of that era attempted to explain the economic activities of man by Newtonian concepts, and thereby failed to form an adequate foundation for their subject.

This study would be more valuable to the general reader if the author had given a list of the most important scientific discoveries with their dates, and if he had shown the dates at which they were introduced into our colleges. The lag in time between the discoveries and the teaching of them was considerable. For example, the reviewer recalls that Lagrange had written his great work on analytical mechanics before the calculus was made an accepted part of the curriculums of the American colleges. A clearer idea of the actual contents of the lectures and demonstrations in science is needed for drawing accurate conclusions. Further investigations are needed to show the early stages of the vast transformations in concepts from those of theology to those of science.

Bucknell University

HOWARD B. HOLROYD

Hill Country Tunes, of immediate interest to folklorists and musicologists, has also much to offer historians. A collection of about one hundred fiddle tunes from southwestern Pennsylvania, it throws light on the social customs of rural Pennsylvanians as far back as pioneer days. For instrumental folk music was largely dance music, and generations of Pennsylvanians swung their partners to it.

Samuel Preston Bayard, one of the nation's most brilliant scholars in the field of American folk music, not only provides notations, but traces the history of many of the tunes. He also gives us brief sketches of his principal fiddlers, together with a description of their methods. The processes of the instrumental folk-music tradition—the same as the processes of the folk-song tradition—he clearly explains. His meticulous scholarship is reflected on every page.

Mr. Bayard's field work was confined to a small corner of Pennsylvania, but so representative is his selection of tunes and so intensive and scholarly is his research that it is quite appropriate that Hill Country Tunes should appear under the sponsorship of the American Folklore Society. These fiddle tunes—chiefly of Anglo-Saxon, German, and Irish origin—are part of the common stock of traditional instrumental folk music in the United States. Under different local titles, they are diffused throughout Pennsylvania and other states.

Hill Country Tunes is a pioneer work. Yet it appears at a time when Pennsylvania's instrumental folk music, once one of the most vigorous and fertile of traditional arts, is fast disappearing from our cultural life. While the nation's principal folk-song veins have been exploited, and a large number of ballads published, instrumental folk music is a relatively late discovery of folklorists and musicologists. What has been published is still too small and scattered. Mr. Bayard's book therefore fills a great need. It is a timely book. It is also an authoritative one.

Paris, France

George Korson


This book is, as its title page declares, "A symposium prepared by the Blair County Historical Society in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Blair County, Pennsylvania." It is indeed a symposium, with some sixty-five authors contributing to its pages. Every phase of the county is covered. Each of its twelve towns and cities and each of its sixteen religious denominations has its history sketched by its own individual author. The county's schools are described by five writers, its culture by five, its medicine by five, and its labor by two. There are also historical sketches of the old highways and inns of the county, of the
Juniata Canal and Portage Railroad, of business, agriculture, the iron industry, the bench and bar, the press, the sports, and even the birds of the county. The book concludes with seventy-five pages of advertisements of the principal businesses of the county, in which each advertiser gives a history of his own business.

This book is a popular, uncritical, undocumented work, after the manner of county histories. With so many authors there could be no unity, and no orderly, progressive development of the theme. The sketches are of uneven merit; there are too many of them, and they are too brief. The professional historian would be inclined to call it a hodgepodge and to dismiss it out of hand as a work devoid of merit.

There are, however, other viewpoints than those of the professional historian; and, when looked at from a different angle, there is much to commend in this history. Blair County Historical Society is to be commended for its enterprise in sponsoring this work, along with Editor Wolf and his associates for their self-sacrificing labors. The book is highly informative and meets the need for a history of the county. It is easy to drift along, to let things slide, and to do nothing. When, therefore, a few men of initiative and enterprise rise up and undertake a worthwhile project and bring it to completion, they are entitled to the plaudits of the community. Hence we are not inclined to view this volume too critically, but rather to applaud those who gave to it their time and effort in furnishing us with a history of one of the most interesting and progressive counties of the Commonwealth. Other counties might well emulate their example.

Wayland F. Dunaway


Published by Henry Schuman and edited by George Rosen, the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* made its appearance in January. The first number is broad in its scope and scholarly in its approach; and it is exceedingly readable. Furthermore, the physical arrangements make its examination a real pleasure. Students of history will welcome it as a source of valuable information.

The feature article, the first in a series on Vesalius by Dr. Charles Singer, sets the tone of the volume. By use of many illustrations, admirably reproduced, the author proves conclusively Vesalius's reliance upon Galen and animal sources for many of his conclusions. The approach, however, is not that of a debunker, but rather of an individual desirous to bring a balance into our evaluation of the position of Vesalius. Such a study could be made only with difficulty by a lay historian.

The other articles demonstrate a catholicity of appeal. There is one on Benjamin Waterhouse in London, another on William Blake and John Hunter, and still another on medical education in seventeenth-century Eng-
land, all of interest to the historian. All told, there are ten articles, which
set a standard of medical scholarship that a reviewer can only applaud.
Nevertheless, I looked in vain through the book reviews for an evaluation
of Martin Gumpert's recent book on Hahnemann. It seems to me that the
history of the medical profession will be more comprehensive when men
such as Hahnemann are given their proper place, for despite certain vagaries
in their theories, Hahnemann and others served a valuable cause not only
by attacking current errors or abuses of the profession but by suggesting
new approaches. This criticism, however, is one whose validity rests upon
only one issue of the journal.
The Journal, then, is a valuable contribution to the general as well as
to the medical historian. Back in 1836, the editor of a Boston medical
journal stated that there had not been a profitable medical magazine pub-
lished in this country, and added that, “worse still, there is not likely to
be one.” Let us hope that this prophecy will not apply to a journal so
useful to all students of human culture.

New York City

HENRY BURNELL SHAFER

Since 1853: An Informal Story of the Harrisburg Steel Corporation and
its Predecessor Companies. (Harrisburg: Harrisburg Steel Corpora-
tion, n.d. Pp. 83.)

This attractive and popularly written booklet, intended to be a “pictorial
story depicting men and events since 1853,” carries the history of the
Harrisburg Steel Corporation through the year 1944.

Monthly Bulletin. Vol. XIV, No. 6. (Harrisburg: Department of Internal
Affairs, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, May, 1946.)

The May issue of the Monthly Bulletin contains a brief but informing
article by H. F. Alderfer, entitled “Manager Government in Pennsylvania
Municipalities,” as well as the seventh of a series of articles by E. D.
LeRoy, entitled “Delaware and Hudson Canal, Pioneer Coal Carrier.”

(Philadelphia: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, April, 1946.)

The principal articles in this issue of the Magazine of History and
Biography are as follows: Max Berger, “The Irish Emigrant and American
Nativism as Seen by British Visitors, 1836-1860”; O. A. Pendleton, “Poor
Relief in Philadelphia, 1790-1840”; and Hubertis Cummings, ed., “Items
from the Morris Family Collection of Robert Morris Papers.”
The following tentative program for the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association at Reading, October 25-26, is given in advance to enable our members to plan their attendance and to make hotel reservations. The first session will be held Friday, October 25, at 2:30 P. M. It will be followed by a reception and a dinner meeting in the evening. Saturday morning the session will be held at 10:00 A. M. There will be a luncheon meeting, and a historical pilgrimage in the afternoon, concluding about 4 P. M., to enable persons from a distance to return home in season. In view of the crowded condition of most hotels, the committee recommends that persons wishing reservations should write to the Hotel Abraham Lincoln or Berkshire Hotel, Reading, at an early date to insure accommodation. Full announcement of the program and papers to be presented will be mailed to the membership in September.
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