NOTES AND QUERIES

THE INAUGURATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.
Contributed by Roy F. Nichols, Vice-President of the Association.

For a number of years there has been a growing feeling among many
of those interested in Pennsylvania history that the resources for
historical research in the state were not being efficiently exploited and
that the subject of Pennsylvania history was not being sufficiently
considered either in public schools or in the colleges and universities.
After several years of desultory discussion, a group was finally as-
sembled at State College in April, 1932, to exchange opinions about
the feasibility of organizing a state association. The group was enthusi-
astic over the possibilities and a state-wide conference was held again
at State College in the fall of the year. At this meeting there was a
formal program of papers and speeches and a temporary organization
was launched. Committees were appointed to draw up a constitution
and to plan for a formal inaugural meeting to be held in the spring
of 1933.

Lehigh University was chosen to be the place for this first annual
gathering and Professor Lawrence H. Gipson of that institution organ-
ized a committee to make the necessary arrangements. Dr. Gipson and
his associates prepared a varied program spread over two pleasant
days. The opening session was held at Lehigh University presided over
by Dr. John Baer Stoudt of Allentown. At this session, papers were
read by Professor Paul W. Gates of Bucknell University on Present
Research Projects in the Field of Pennsylvania History; by Ruth Kistler
of Allentown High School on Chief Justice William Allen, and by Pro-
fessor Russell J. Ferguson of the University of Pittsburgh on Albert
Gallatin in Western Pennsylvania Politics. These papers were well
received and a lively discussion followed. A brief but very pleasant
interlude in the program then occurred when Mr. Edgar Shields, Lehigh
University Organist, gave an organ recital at the Packer Memorial
University Church.

The day was concluded by a formal dinner at the Hotel Bethlehem
where the new association was greeted by President Charles Russ
Richards of Lehigh University. Dr. Conyers Read, Executive Secretary
of the American Historical Association, brought greetings from the
parent association and presented the new organization with stimulating
advice. The orator of the evening was Professor Dixon Ryan Fox of
Columbia University, President of the New York State Historical Asso-
ciation. He delivered a brilliant address which he entitled Advice from
a Neighbor; delving into the rich experience of his own association he
gave an exceedingly inspiring example to those who were interested
in promoting what he called “the greatest opportunity for this sort
of historical service that remained in America.” The dinner was con-
cluded with a few remarks from the temporary vice-president of the
Association, the contributor of this note, wherein the general aims and
purposes of the organization were briefly outlined.

Saturday morning was the occasion for a second program meeting
presided over by Professor H. M. J. Kline of Franklin and Marshall.
At this session, Mr. W. A. Itter of the University of Pennsylvania gave
a paper on Early Coal Mining in Pennsylvania with Special Reference
to Schuylkill County and Mr. Ernest Spofford, Librarian of The His-
torical Society of Pennsylvania, gave a very comprehensive account of
many of the more important manuscript resources of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These papers like those of the preceding day elicited a spirited discussion and stimulated a number of those present to greater interest in the possibilities of research in the history of the Commonwealth.

This meeting was immediately followed by a business session. Temporary president, Honorable A. Boyd Hamilton, was in the chair and the first item on the program was the discussion of a constitution which had been drawn up by a committee headed by Dr. Solon J. Buck, director of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey. This document was unanimously accepted. Thereupon reports were heard from the committee on membership by the chairman, Miss Frances Dorrance, director of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society; from the committee on resolutions by the chairman, Dr. Asa E. Martin of Pennsylvania State College; from the committee on publications by the chairman, Dr. Solon J. Buck and from the nominating committee by Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh of Gettysburg College. The report of the nominating committee was unanimously adopted and the following officers were elected: President, Honorable A. Boyd Hamilton; Vice-President, Roy F. Nichols; Secretary, Dr. Paul W. Gates; Treasurer, Mr. Ross Pier Wright of the State Historical Commission. The following members were elected to the Council: Ernest Spofford, librarian of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Dr. S. J. Buck, director of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey; Dr. W. F. Dunaway of Pennsylvania State College; Dr. H. H. Shenk, state archivist; Dr. L. H. Gipson of Lehigh University; Dr. H. R. Mueller of Muhlenberg College; Dr. C. M. Sullivan of the State Teachers College; Dr. F. A. Godcharles, former State Librarian, and Dr. A. F. James of the University of Pittsburgh. Two further members are to be appointed, one by the State Historical Commission and another by the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies.

After transacting this business, the newly inaugurated association adjourned to the historic Sun Inn where luncheon was served, presided over by Mr. Chidsey, past President of the Northampton Historical Society. At this luncheon, Dr. W. N. Schwarze, President of the Moravian College and Theological Seminary, gave an address upon the 18th century Moravian economy at Bethlehem. The remainder of the afternoon was given over to an historical pilgrimage to the various points of interest in Bethlehem and Allentown. Supper was served at the Moravian College for Women, where Miss Frances Dorrance presided and Mrs. J. Upton Myers, vice-president of the Northampton Historical Society, gave some memoirs of the Sun Inn. The meetings were closed by a concert at the central Moravian Church where anthems composed by Bethlehem musicians were sung by the choir under the direction of Dr. Albert Rau, Dean of the Moravian College and Theological Seminary. Before finally adjourning the newly elected council held a meeting and decided to plan for a publication to be known as Pennsylvania History. Dr. Arthur C. Bining, of the University of Pennsylvania, was appointed editor and the following editorial board was selected to aid in this project: Dr. J. F. Brougher, State Department of Education; Dr. A. E. Martin, Pennsylvania State College; Dr. W. J. Martin, University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh of Gettysburg College. Others will be appointed.

The attendance at this inaugural meeting numbered over 100 and 70 charter members placed their signatures in the record book. It is planned to hold the next meeting of the Association possibly in the fall in conjunction with a meeting of the Federation. The new Association has become a member of the Federation and plans to work in closest cooperation with the elder body. Honorable A. Boyd Hamilton is president of both organizations and many of those deeply interested in the
Notes and Queries

Federation are closely connected with the new Association. All those interested in encouraging a wider interest in state history, a wider use of research material and a wider teaching of Pennsylvania history in the schools are urged to join the new organization. The dues are $2.00 a year and membership applications may be made to Miss Frances Dorrance, Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

LETTER OF JOHN A. OTTO TO HIS FATHER, DR. JOHN B. OTTO OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA, DESCRIBING A TRIP MADE IN 1844, TO THE NORTHERN COUNTIES OF PENNSYLVANIA. Contributed by James E. Gibson, grandson of John A. Otto, with the following note:

John A. Otto, born in 1814, was the grandson of Dr. John A. Otto and great-grandson of Dr. Bodo Otto, two Revolutionary hospital surgeons from Reading, Pennsylvania. His father, Dr. John B. Otto, was a surgeon in the War of 1812, and had inherited and acquired coal and timber lands in Schuylkill, in Carbon and Clearfield Counties. John A. Otto was educated as an engineer and surveyor and assumed charge of the operations of the coal, iron and lumber interests of his father. He eventually settled in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in 1859, where he died in 1889.

"Mount Hebron—May 24, 1844

"Dear Father—

"After leaving you at Reading I stopped at Orwigsburg and Redeemed the tract of land which was sold in 1842 to P. Ludwig for $83.—as soon as I got my business arranged at home I started for Clearfield which was at 3:00 o’clock in the afternoon of the 16th inst. Before I reached the turnpike I was caught in a heavy shower and got wet to the skin; when I came to the stage office at Fountain Springs, I ascertained the stage would not be along for two hours and probably would be so full that I could not get in, so I mounted a market wagon going up the pike and reached Bear Gap, twelve miles, at 9:30 o’clock; here the passengers divided, some to Danville and others to Sunbury, the stage came on, crowded, two hours later than usual, at midnight. I then took my seat and we drove on to Snufftown, a distance of five miles, which we reached by 2:00 o’clock, taking two hours owing to the lights going out in the rain; we here took our supper and then proceeded on to Northumberland eighteen miles which we reached at 5 o’clock. I was now told I would have to remain here a day for the stage for Bellfonte but I could go on with the Packet boat round by Williamsport which would start by 7:00 o’clock. I then laid on two chairs till the breakfast bell rang till we had washed ourselves and was ready to set down. The Packet boat bell rang and we left breakfast behind and ran for the boat. The Packet then proceeded on its journey at the rate of three miles per hour,—eight miles on we passed by Derrytown which we left on the opposite side of the river. Four miles further on we changed horses at Milton, thence we had fourteen miles to Muncy where we had another change of horses—fourteen miles further brings us to Williamsport, a distance of forty miles from Northumberland which we reached at 6:00 o’clock in the evening—the country along here is beautiful and the scenery grand—Williamsport is lively, stirring place, handsomely laid out and displays a great many tasteful buildings—the next morning, Saturday, I got into a two-horse coach, at 3:00 o’clock, all alone, passed through Newburry and Cherrytown to Jersey Shore, fifteen miles, raining all the time; took breakfast here and then took another two-horse coach, fifteen miles, to Lock Haven, the County Seat of Clinton where I arrived at 10:00 o’clock—I had now to wait two days to take the stage for Bellfonte, a distance of twenty-five miles. I therefore made application for a private
conveyance and they had the conscience to ask me five dollars to take me on so sooner than be imposed on. I took my valise in hand and attempted to make it on foot. I got but a short distance when I found out it would be impossible for me to get on through the mud that day and reach Bellfonte so I went back again and got a man to take me on for $3.00; this distance passed through Nittany Valley, a rich fine limestone region with several Iron Works in it. We got to Bellfonte at 7:00 o'clock—here I met Griffith; was introduced to a representative of Centre County who owned some land in Clearfield on track adjoining Otto & Miller. He says he considers the land worth $1.00 per acre—asked him whether he would give us $1.00 per acre for ours and he says 'No, not one cent'.

"The distance around, through Lycoming County, is thirty-four miles more than the direct route. The stage had just left for Clearfield that day and would not go out again until Monday so I went to a Livery stable and hired a horse to go the rest of my journey. A man promised me a good horse but instead he brought me out a miserable little scruffy stud colt; it was five o'clock Sunday morning when I mounted him and had considerable trouble in getting him along—on the road today, I caught up with Senator Quay, from Clinton County, on his way to Allport as agent for Gratz; in the course of conversation he remarked he considered any man unfortunate who held lands in this wild wilderness. We reached Allport, took dinner, met Judge Boggs here and some families on their way to attend meeting—I got to Old Town at 5:00 o'clock to Hempfield and was immediately introduced to Wallace, the treasurer, who was on the spot and who gave me all the information I wanted. He is what you may call a real gentleman—he spent about an hour's time with me and on leaving him that evening I was so satisfied that I considered my visit three quarters ended; He promised to be up early in the morning and give me all the particulars in the Office that was necessary so after breakfast I went to his Office and spent three hours in looking over the drafts, papers, etc., that gave me information respecting the lands.

"I redeemed, according to your wish, the More & Delany lands and the William Powers also and as the taxes were never paid the purchasers for the years 1842 and 1843 I had to pay them also so that these lands are now redeemed and taxes paid up, in full, to this year—in doing so I thought them too much a sacrifice to leave them go out of your hands, for nothing, without at least first making an attempt to dispose of them in some way or trade them off for something as is now practiced, by the merchants here; they trade them off in Philadelphia for goods—. Otto & Miller's lands I did not redeem as I had ordered not to do so and my money would not have reached neither did I consider them worth redeeming. Smith bought them, thinking we would redeem them but on my telling him they would not be redeemed he said he would get rid of them in a hurry. The Nickolson tract was bought in by one Barret the first days sale for $200; learning the tract was not worth much he would not take it so the tract was put up again the next day and he bought again for the amount of the taxes due but in the name of General Adam Diller with whom he was acting in concert. This Adam Diller and Barret persuaded and, through misrepresentation, defrauded a German out of his property in trading this tract which they valued at $6.00 per acre taking $5,000. for this man's property in the city of Philadelphia. This German had a property worth $12,000. and was embarrassed with debt to the amount of $7,000; to relieve himself he was induced to take up with this trade so that he would be free of debt and have a property of a thousand acres of land which he had intended to move on and cultivate; he was, however, almost deranged at the deception that was practiced on him, by Diller, when he saw the land—he then got a surveyor and took two men all
around the land and took these mens affidavids who swore that the land was not worth paying the taxes. He has instituted suit to recover his property and it is supposed that he will succeed. This Barret was very anxious that I should redeem the land and was after Smith to get me to do so. Smith considering he would hold the lands had the assessment or valuation lowered from 75c to 50c making 1/3 less than heretofore. I told Smith to get a written description, of the land, from Judge Bogs so that we might have something to show in order to sell and that he should sell them if he could. I also met Judge Bogs out surveying near Allport, on my return, and he promised to send me a description.

"Having got through with all the necessary business concerning the lands, the redeeming—paying up the taxes—getting assignments on the transferred deeds—getting them acknowledged and the receipts of redemption recorded in the Prothonotary Office, I concluded I had done all that was necessary for going on to the land was of no importance as I had been on them once before and from the description and drafts I had seen I was satisfied. Besides it was raining and I did not know how long it would continue and in seeing them I would have to have a surveyor and a great deal of expense—I now made up my mind to start for Bellfonte as the stage would leave there for Pottin Fort in the morning. Mr. Hempfield had my horse fed and saddled at half past eleven. I was on my route again with the loan of an umbrella from Mr. Hempfield. On my way home I met Gratz on his way to Allport where I met Boggs and Quay waiting for him. Dr. Philips has sold out all his property as near as they can ascertain for $175,000.—$30,000. in hand and the balance in long payments with interest giving possession in September and he then goes to England. I found the people all day Sunday were busily engaged in getting off their lumber but the water was too low for them to get far though the rains which we had had since I think will be sufficient to bring them; if it don't they will have a sorry time as that is all they can depend on. Money is very scarce and all the circulation they have is County orders. I met young Harthans at Hempfield—he put me very much in mind of his father—it was 5:00 o'clock Monday afternoon when I reached Muchshanan Creek the other side of the Alleghenies; here I fed myself and horse. The stage which left two hours before I did at Old Town through Philipsburg had not yet reached here. I then started to cross the mountains near Rattlesnake Creek. I met a man here who had just killed a large rattlesnake and got down into the Valley where it was already dark; when I just got under the old shed it commenced pouring down in torrents and I was detained a long time by the rain. I went on again thinking to reach Milersburg before another shower came on and about half a mile from there all at once I was left in total darkness. I could not see my hands before my face and I got off the road; My horse slipped down a high bank with his hind legs and the Bald Eagle Creek which was very high was just below. I jumped off my horse—was completely lost—the rain now came down by buckets full. I felt the ground with my hands to find the Turnpike. I at last got hold of a pale fence knowing I must now be near a house. I tied my horse fast and felt along the fence until I got around the other side where I found a light burning and then got into the house. I stayed here until the shower was over when I could see a little of the road. I then went on a half a mile to Milesburg—it was midnight and I stopped here to wait for the stage so that I might ride by the lights; the stage came on at 1:00 o'clock—we then went together and stopped to change the mail a short distance ahead. The Postmaster stayed so long in getting up that I went on a piece when my horse stopped and would not move an inch so I had to get off and lead him—get on again—stop again—get off again—and so on alternately until I reached Bellfonte, at 2:00 o'clock in the morning. The Landlord showed me to my bed and in the same room in an
opposite bed was laying a great big fellow who turned out, when he
got awake and came down stairs, I had seen before, to be Eysenbise,
Brigade-Inspector from Lewistown and planned to attend the Battalion
in Bellfonte that day. The stage was to start at 8:00 o'clock but had to
wait on Lawyer Hale until 9:00 o'clock when he was ready. I now got
on to Oldfort between 11:00 and 12:00 o'clock—this stage goes on to
Lewistown and the passengers going to Northumberland have to wait
until 5:00 o'clock until the stage comes along from Water Street. Sooner
than wait I took my valise and walked six miles to Hehms Tavern. I
was so worn out from the night before that I gave his boy 62½c to take
me six miles further in a little board wagon to Aronsburg. I got here
at 5:00 o'clock and was in hopes of meeting some conveyance that I
might get on to Northumberland but I was foiled in this and had now
to wait until the stage came on which was sometime in the night after
I had been in bed. Wednesday I got to Northumberland and Thursday
home, exactly one week from the time I left. I have $70.00 left and
there are two tracts which I can pay off at Orwigsburg for $55.00 and
the balance I can return to you when I come to Reading which will be
in time to arrange the accounts. Had I taken my own conveyance my
expenses would have been 2/3's less. There will then remain in Schuyl-
kill County the taxes to pay on the lands in the Gower Makantonga
which amounts to $117.00 which you can pay or take your time to re-
deed.

"We are at a loss for Clara and are very anxious to hear from her.
Little Alice has improved very much since I left; her vaccination has
taken finely and the scabs are falling off. We are all very well.

"Yours affectionately

"JOHN A. OTTO

"For Dr. John B. Otto, Reading, Penna.

"P. S. Lumber is fetching a good price and is in demand. While at
Northumberland I met a great many rafts coming down the north
branch but as yet none from the west branch which is still back but I
think the rain which they have had since I left will be sufficient to
bring them on.

"Elk County is not as yet properly organized; they had their election
for officers last Fall. Wallace says there will, he thinks, be not more
that one or two of our tracks get into the new County and the Township
in which they lie the people want to cut over to Clearfield County—
The County seat is now Caladonia—they are trying to get it to Ridgeway
—they tried to hold a court in a log house but could not succeed for
want of a sufficient quorum to summon a jury. Griffith says there are
three houses in the place—he was out there hunting."

Book Notices

MARINE INSURANCE IN PHILADELPHIA, 1721-1800. With a list of
Brokers and Underwriters as shown by old policies and books of record.
Including an Appendix of Marine Insurance of Archibald McCall, 1809-
Pp. 133. Illustrated. Limited to 200 copies and sold by subscription only.
Apply to the Author, 432 West Price Street, Germantown, Philadelphia.
Price $4.00.

As but little has been written concerning the history of marine in-
surance in Philadelphia prior to the year 1800, when risks were covered
by subscribers or underwriters, this book, the result of years of careful
and painstaking research, will be thoroughly appreciated by those in-
terested in the subject.

The "Office-keepers" or brokers of Philadelphia, as well as those
of New York, Boston, Baltimore and other cities, are listed and described.
Chapters on Privateering, Underwriting and Underwriters, Rates, Losses, and Stephen Girard further indicate the scope of the work; and an excellent index makes the contents readily available. The wealth of material contained in this handsomely printed and illustrated work is carefully documented.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILADELPHIA. By Joseph Jackson, author of “Market Street,” “American Colonial Architecture,” etc. Harrisburg, National Historical Association, Telegraph Building. Four volumes.

It would have been impossible to bring out such a work as the “Encyclopedia of Philadelphia” if the author had not thoroughly known his subject—if he had not steeped himself in our local lore. It would have been equally impossible to produce the four volumes under review had he not possessed what we may call a paradoxical qualification—the driving force to carry him through so serious an undertaking and the restraint that has enabled him to select the essential, the characteristic, the illuminating.

In appraising his achievement, we find ourselves bound to praise it and him. Our trouble will be not to overpraise. No one within the witchery of the old town’s charm could do otherwise than say: “Here, in his several volumes under the matter-of-fact title of “Encyclopedia”, Mr. Jackson has given us a series of appreciative Philadelphia studies, encyclopedic in their scope, yet of the greatest value from the literary side, because they have caught what many a literary man would give his head to catch—the very spirit of the city’s past.

Our only quarrel, if we have any, is with the title; for “Encyclopedia” may seem, to some, too factual and forbidding a word in this connection. Our grandfathers might have called it a “Compendium”, or possibly a “Conspectus.” In truth it is both; but “Compendium” was worked to death before any of us were born, and “Conspectus”, if high-sounding and erudite, is anything but a winsome word. “Book of Philadelphia” might have made a good title; but Robert Shackleton’s production is in narrative form, like Miss Agnes Repplier’s “Philadelphia—the Place and the People.” It remained for Mr. Jackson to handle his subject item by item, alphabetically, covering the full compass of local history and bracketing his varied matter under “Encyclopedia.”

A careful turning of the pages generates in one the feeling that we have here a work by a compiler who knows his business, his purpose, his art and his own particular Philadelphia—a many-sided, originating, practical city, home of true liberalism, where the generations from Penn’s time to the present have left their mark. One has the feeling, too, that this painstaking editor knows these various generations, differentiates with respect to them and seizes upon the high points of each. If meticulous at times, he is fittingly so; though he tells us of outstanding men and women, he is not unduly biographical; though tempted by the oddity of some of his characters, he is not unduly anecdotal; though obliged to incorporate multitudes of authenticated facts and nail them fast with dates, he is never dull. The art of not being dull does not come down as a gift from heaven, but is acquired by a writer in much the same way as a hand-craftsman acquires his deftness and sense of fitness. Clear, direct statements characterize the work—a clarity and precision only possible because Joseph Jackson knew his job before his typewriter began to click. Very early in his newspaper career, he must have taken to heart Charles A. Dana’s advice to reporters: “Be accurate and be brief.”

Much of the substance and much of the charm of Philadelphia is represented here. Ours is a two hundred and fifty years old city of the colony builders, the nation builders, the shipbuilders, the great ocean
traders, the pioneering industrialists, and great merchants and medical experts known the world over; and these worthies are well remembered in the "Encyclopedia." The religious side, the art side, the musical side, the scientific side of Philadelphia—all these are carefully covered. Here we have the lights and the sidelights, the street lore, the life of the old alleys and courts, the noted "characters." Is Crazy Norah in the book? Frankly, we haven't found her; but doubtless she is on the appropriate page, with other eccentrics talked of by our grandmothers when they were little girls.

Philadelphians of the younger generation miss more than they realize when they pass to and fro in the historic down-town parts, once within the sound of the State House bell—thronged Chestnut street, the promenade, with its fine select shops, where a blue book of Spruce, Pine, Locust and the suburbs could be indited off-hand by knowing ones; Walnut street, much trodden by gentlemen of the green bag; Arch street, home of substantial Quakers, still showing their drab; the genial Northern Liberties above; the genial Southwark below; and, in the outlying sections and the far fringe, a multitude of folks rather proud of the fact that theirs was truly a city of homes, of churches, of factories and well supported neighborhood stores. Not a quiet city, with its jangling bells and rumbling drays, and frequent parades that jammed the streets on jubilee occasions; but, in the main, a rather happy old town, with traditions of its own and a life of its own, where incoming aliens of the better sort were Americanized automatically, blending with the mass.

Of course, that was before the flight to the suburbs, before the use of skyscrapers and before the heavy-headed tax hammer began to knock down the roomy old three-story dwellings in the heart of the city. Other times, other manners. Yes, indeed, that heavy-headed tax hammer! But this is not the place to dwell upon the toll Philadelphia has paid for its modernity. It is the place to remind ourselves, not of municipal unwisdom, governmental or otherwise, but of the fact that vanished and vanishing Philadelphia has been caught for us in a permanent picture, artistically conceived and spiritedly executed in Mr. Jackson's work. It is going; it has gone—or is going; and we are grateful that Mr. Jackson has preserved for us and our children so true a record of the lovable town that used to be. Is it too much to hope that we may yet rescue and restore and hold fast the spirit of the elder time?

The work under notice bears the stamp of its author's mind. It is not inclusive of detail as are the recognized Watson, Westcott, Jenkins histories; but it is not exclusive, as are some of the one-sided studies of Philadelphia. It deliberately excludes much, but it just as deliberately includes and develops characteristic matters that have escaped the wordier chroniclers. It is, in that sense selective. Long and appreciative study of things peculiarly Philadelphian has caused Mr. Jackson to take into the favor of his own mind certain red-letter events, characters, qualities and episodes; and, by reason of his bent, he has analyzed them and grouped them and presented them compactly, so that we have Jackson's Philadelphia—different from the stereotyped Philadelphia of the laborious, as well as superficial, historians—selective yet comprehensive, and interesting in every part. Such a scholarly presentation, *sui generis*, is bound to hold a place for itself in the esteem of present readers, as well as the readers of the future. In a certain sense, it may be regarded as the very best summary of Philadelphia and Philadelphians of the red-brick era.

In covering a series of subjects such as these, knowing what to omit becomes of prime importance with the compiler; and, not only so, but, together with the sense of fitness, he must have the will and watchfulness to shut a thing out, if need be, when the temptation is to put it in. To the limitation of scale, is an added limitation, making it incum-
bent to forego the use of much illuminating matter. He must constantly
write the Lord's prayer on the head of a pin.

Mr. Jackson has successfully brought his mass of material into
historical balance. His judgment is sound, and his discrimination fine.
No one better knows the biographical lore of old Philadelphia; and
Carlyle said that history is, in its essence, biography. Mr. Jackson has
long had so real a liking for those who developed the city that his work
has been done with warmth of spirit. He has the antiquarian's love for
the rusty-dusty, and the newspaper man's appreciation of "characters."
He has been able to fling his net wider than a less competent compiler
might have done, with the result that we have the odd fish of old Phila-
delphia, along with the big ones. Many out-of-the-way characters appear
in his pages, giving his volumes peculiar interest and readability, aside
from their reference value.

Some who consult this "Encyclopedia" may feel abused because they
fail to find what they seek; and it is quite true that the work has "the
defect of its qualities," or, more accurately, of its size. Even Mr. Jackson,
adroit as he is, is not a miracle-worker. No doubt there is something
highly desirable, here or there, that has been missed. By a slip of the
make-up man, "Cemeteries" was not given its proper alphabetical place;
but this item has been included at the end of the fourth volume.
This and other omissions are more than atoned for by the extraordinary
number of references to historically difficult and elusive subjects—
"unconsidered trifles" in the portfolio of the heavy-weight historian, but
of recognized importance in libraries and editorial rooms, so often in-
vaded by the ravenous hunter, with a query in his eye and impatience
on his tongue. Or, shall we say her tongue? Much escaped our standard
Watsons and Westcotts; therefore, if you cannot find it anywhere else,
go to our author's trim, slim but meaty set of cyclopedic books. If Joseph
Jackson does not fill the bill, he does the next best thing: "To all
articles that seemed to demand it, useful and sometimes extensive, bibli-
ographies have been appended." He supplies the clue, the pointer, the
finder, if not the actual data. He "gives the lead." He tells the seeker
where to search.

A marked advantage of the four-volume cyclopedic form is that it
has enabled Mr. Jackson to use a great number of highly informative
illustrations—rare old prints, portraits, vignettes, title-pages, facsimiles,
cartoons and the quaint and curious what-not of the graphic past. That
he has ransacked the print-shops and libraries goes without the saying.
That he has used as rare a judgment in his selection of illustrative ma-
terial as in his selection of subjects will be apparent to anyone who
examines the work. There are many surprises among the pictures. Even
an expert Philadelphia antiquarian would be apt to ask: "Where in
the world did he get them?" They constitute a most pleasing feature
of his volumes—all pat, all rare, all interesting.

By collecting certain books, a library might be formed that would
be characteristically Philadelphian. Such select, exclusive Philadelphia
libraries, indeed, already grace the homes of those who have long appreci-
ciated the richness of Philadelphia life in the past. Mr. Jackson's work
blends with such collections, and supplements them usefully and charm-
ingly.

In fine, we have here, in practical form, the outcome of a lifelong,
sympathetic study of the past generations.

GEORGE MORGAN.*

* Mr. Morgan is the author of The City of Firsts. Being a complete
history of the City of Philadelphia from its founding, in 1682, to the
present time. Published in 1926. He is also the author of the article
Philadelphia in the current edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica."

A prominent Philadelphia architect, resident in Germantown, recently said that if Germantown's Main Street could be restored after the manner of the Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg, Virginia, and the commercial ventures and trolley tracks removed to either Greene Street or Wayne Avenue, we would have the most charming, quaint and historic highway in America, one that would attract thousands of visitors. Joseph Pennell drew such a street as he saw it in his youth when he lived there. Although much of it is gone, there is enough left to interest many and a remaining local pride which may augur well for the future.

Mr. Hocker has brought his long newspaper training to the writing of a history in which he has long been familiar through inclination and research. His book is written in the modern narrative way with an avoidance of the flippancy and superficiality of many current biographies and pseudo-histories popular at the moment. He has brought together in this interesting fashion the many excellent, though fragmentary, accounts of the founding and early history of Germantown, and so made available a comprehensive account that would take the average reader a long time and considerable research to obtain.

The book is divided into chapters and subordinate headings which make it easy for such readers and for those who wish to learn of particular things. The chapter headings are—Founding the Community; The Colonial Period; The Revolutionary War; Emerging from Isolation; Borough Government; Part of a Great City, and The Twentieth Century. Two pages of authorities are given for those who wish greater detail or original sources. The account of Germantown since the War for Independence is particularly valuable since this has never been comprehensive or well-done and good opportunities for source material were rapidly slipping away. With its index the book comprises 331 pages which is a comfortable volume to handle. There is little that went on among the inhabitants that is not touched upon and altogether there could be perhaps no more fitting and lasting memorial of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of this busy, historic community.

HORACE MATHER LIPPINCOTT.