

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Pennsylvania Cavalcade.* Compiled by the PENNSYLVANIA WRITERS' PROJECT, WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION. [American Guide Series.] (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1942. vii, 462 p. \$3.00.)

Material for this volume was compiled and the book written by members of the Pennsylvania Writers' Project under the guidance of Grant M. Sassaman.

Few states can boast a richer historical heritage than can Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, however, this has inspired but few narratives designed for general reading. There has been a wide gap between the history textbooks and the formal documented works of specialists. *Pennsylvania Cavalcade* has been designed to fill the need for good history written to satisfy the need of the ordinary person reading for enjoyment as well as information.

The book is composed of a series of essays or sketches emphasizing various trends, aspects, and phases of endeavor each of which has left its imprint on the state. While the work does not aspire to be a complete historical record but rather "an exploration of history's mountain tops," the scope of the work is much broader than the chapter headings would indicate. At the beginning of each chapter is a line drawing done by artists of the Pennsylvania Art Project under the supervision of Michael Gallagher. The chapters of the book are presented under four main headings.

First comes a series of ten chapters entitled "Historic Places." They deal with: Tinicum Island and the establishment of the first permanent settlement in Pennsylvania by the Swedes and Finns; the archaeology, history, and mystery surrounding Spanish Hill, first visited by Étienne Brulé, Champlain's lieutenant; Pennsbury Manor, the country seat of the founder of Pennsylvania overlooking the Delaware near Tullytown, now, like Williamsburg, faithfully restored; a vivid description of Stenton, the home of James Logan, with a very good biographical sketch of Penn's able lieutenant; Fort Necessity and the dramatic occurrences leading up to the outbreak of the French and Indian War; the Fort Pitt Blockhouse, dealing with the later stages of that struggle as it concerned Pennsylvania, Pontiac's Conspiracy, the American Revolution, and life in the turbulent frontier community of Pittsburgh; the story of Valley Forge with a vivid description of the Memorial Park; Fort Mifflin, the Revolutionary maneuvers around Philadelphia and the British occupation of that city; Presque Isle Peninsula and the part it played in the French and Indian War and the War of 1812; and Wheatland, the home of James Buchanan.

Then comes the section on "Historic Highlights" with ten chapters on: the decisive Battle of Bushy Run, which ended Pontiac's dream of driving the white

man into the sea; the terrible yellow fever epidemic that infested Philadelphia, capital of state and nation, in 1793; the Whiskey Rebellion—dismal in its inception and inglorious in its suppression; the Hot Water Rebellion, in which the Pennsylvania Dutch resisted the Federal Government; the Christina Riot, the first armed skirmish growing out of the problem of slavery in the state which had abolished slavery first; the discovery of oil at Titusville; Pickett's magnificent but disastrous charge at Gettysburg which sealed the doom of the Confederacy; the senseless occupation of Columbia County by Federal troops in 1864 to crush the mythical Fishing Creek Confederacy; the Johnstown floods; and the crushing of the Homestead Strike which eliminated unionism as a potent factor in the steel industry for fifty years, defeated Harrison, elected Cleveland.

Then follow accounts of seven "Experimental Settlements": Conrad Beisel and the monastic community of German Seventh Day Adventists at Ephrata; the establishment of a settlement of French émigrés in Bradford County with a home for Marie Antoinette; the establishment of the Catholic community at Loretto by Prince Gallitzin; the Harmony Society, German Pietist group led by George Rapp, which, after settling at Harmony, Pennsylvania, migrated to New Harmony, Indiana, and finally returned to Economy, Pennsylvania, to establish the most successful of the communistic settlements; the ill-starred venture of the Sylvania Society undertaken in an attempt to establish a community in the rugged, hilly, rattlesnake infested wilderness of Pike County along lines laid down by the French socialist Fourier; the establishment of the first settlement in Potter County by Olaus Borneman Bull, world-famed violinist, in an unsuccessful attempt to found a New Norway in America; and the effort of Peter E. Armstrong to establish a Second Adventist colony on a tract of land in Sullivan County which he deeded to God but which eventually passed back into mortal hands after the colony failed to materialize and God failed to pay the taxes.

Finally there is the section on "Transportation" with nine chapters: early Pennsylvania highways and the Lancaster Turnpike, America's first paved road; the building of the Schuylkill Canal from Pottsville to Philadelphia to facilitate the delivery of hard coal to that city; dugouts, pirogues, bateaux, flatboats, and keelboats on the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio before the advent of steam; the testing of the Stourbridge Lion, the first American railway engine, and the coming of the "iron horse"; the story of the development of steam navigation on American rivers, which is largely a Pennsylvania story; rafting on the Susquehanna, Allegheny and other streams during the heyday of the lumbering industry that razed the forests of the Keystone State; the "Pennsylvania System," between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh with its curious combination of railroads, canals, and inclined planes to carry the boats over the mountains; the Erie Extension Canal connecting Lake Erie with Pittsburgh and Philadelphia; and finally the Superhighway which sweeps for 160 miles over valleys and under mountains from Irwin to Middlesex.

The errors of fact are few and inconsequential and to parade the few the reviewer has gleaned would be to indulge in a form of sophistry with which he has no sympathy and to detract from the well-deserved merits of a truly delightful book.

*Case School of Applied Science*

STANTON LING DAVIS

*The Morning of America.* By FRANK J. KLINGBERG. (New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1941. xix, 479 p. \$3.00.)

*The Morning of America* covers the period of our history extending from the close of the French and Indian War to the commencement of Jackson's administration in 1829. It was during this period that the term "American," so often loosely bandied about, came to have the rich and lasting significance it has today. It was here that our country, as a democratic organization putting into practice the arm-chair theories of previous decades in the Old Country, was founded. Dr. Klingberg tells what by this time must have become an old story, managing, sometimes in spite of himself, to introduce a good deal of vitality into the narrative.

Dr. Klingberg spends the early chapters of his book in England, trying, a little too ponderously, to write not only history, but literary and aesthetic criticism as well. Being obviously a man with both eyes almost exclusively on the political, economic, and social scene, he cannot be said to be very successful in the world of literature. In fact, the form of the book would have been more concise, more lucid, if Dr. Klingberg had not tried to undertake so much. It left this reviewer with an uncomfortable feeling of loose ends and ragged edges.

Basically, *The Morning of America* is meant to introduce the reader to our national history, and as an introduction it serves a useful function. For any purpose beyond that it is too diffuse. Dr. Klingberg had apparently unearthed no new material, nor has he thrown new light on this vital period of our history. In addition, he has an enthusiasm for detail, which may show love for his subject but makes rather difficult reading. Nevertheless, the book remains an interesting and stimulating introduction for those unacquainted with our heritage.

I could have wished for more frankly spirited commitments on Dr. Klingberg's part. He is disinclined to assert opinions where they would be of great value, and generally prefers to record rather than to interpret. This produces a certain aridity of style which is unfortunate in what is otherwise a competent piece of work.

Haverford College

DONALD SPAULDING

*Johann Conrad Beissel, Mystic and Martinet, 1690-1768.* WALTER C. KLEIN. (Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1942. ix, 218 p. \$2.25.)

This is another volume in the series "Pennsylvania Lives" issued by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

One of the greatest of Pennsylvania Germans during the eighteenth century was the founder of the Ephrata monastic experiment, Johann Conrad Beissel. Unknown except to the specialists in provincial Pennsylvania studies, Beissel has stood as a great question mark, a shadowy, enigmatic figure whose mission has been the subject of controversy ever since he came to Pennsylvania.

Dr. Klein's book neither clarifies the picture of Beissel nor solves the enigma of his mission. The Beissel that emerges from this book is a scoundrel of admitted fascination, a religious crackpot able to command the loyal devotion of men far more able than he. The author begins with an undisguised distaste for his task and he concludes his work resolved to "banish from his mind" the "crushing weight of information" which he has gathered in the course of writing this book. He has

tried to give a "popularized" picture of a figure whose genius it was to defy the popular mind, a man whose worth certainly cannot be popularized without distortion. Nevertheless, his work is not without valuable insights into the nature of Ephrata. The author is well aware that his has been the good fortune to solve one or two not so obvious problems. The best section of this book, and the most objective, is the historical outline of Palatine history in the first chapter. Yet Beissel's own connections with political events are not made. The chief virtue of this book is the suggestion that Beissel's contacts with the radical Pietists like Jacob Boehme, Gottfried Arnold, Georg Gichtel, and Johann Wilhelm Ueberfeldt were determinative for his character. But the nature of this determination is not grasped.

Johann Conrad Beissel was a mystic of importance. He shares the good and the evil of mysticism; he was certainly no saint. There was perhaps more of the devil in him than of the good, yet he cannot be understood without first knowing the patterns and the history of Christian mysticism, especially those seventeenth-century forms of it in which devotional fervor and speculative experience were united. Beissel's writings cannot be understood without thorough grounding in the admittedly bizarre literature of the seventeenth-century mystics. Many strands appear in him: *Brautmystik*, *Sprachalchemie*, shiliasm, religious primitivism, asceticism, and erotic morbidity. But these were not unique with Beissel. They were his mystical environment. The main defect of this book is its failure to integrate Beissel with his background.

Another virtue of this book is its attribution of the Sabbatarian ideas of Beissel to Boehme. But Dr. Klein, not being a Boehme expert, misses the full significance of Boehme's idea; indeed, how should he not when even Boehme scholars are not aware of the distinction between theogony and emanation in Boehme's speculation.

Dr. Klein's conception of the reason for the Beissel-Eckerlin dispute is interesting. Israel Eckerlin was a practical man, capable of solving the dollar-cents problem in the Ephrata community. Beissel, on the contrary, was spiritual genius with an ideal of religious poverty. The two are irreconcilable. Beissel had no dream of a rich monastic organization; Eckerlin did. But whether our judgment, founded in our commercialized and greedy age, is better than Beissel's is not so apparent.

On the whole this is a book which seeks nothing deeper in Beissel or in Ephrata than the surface appearances. Beissel is certainly a martinet when viewed from the world's point of view. But so was Ignatius Loyola, yet his movement is judged on the basis of the *Spiritual Exercises*. Is it too much to ask that Beissel's achievement be judged according to Beissel's goal?

Allentown

JOHN JOSEPH STOUT

*Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817: A Biography.* By CHARLES E. CUNINGHAM. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1942. viii, 403 p. \$3.75.)

This biography of Timothy Dwight is a most welcome book for it gives us not only an intimate portrait of this Revolutionary soldier, man of God, and progressive educator, but also takes us behind the scenes to the daily life of New Englanders during the last half of the eighteenth century and the first two decades of the nineteenth.

There have been few men of the stature of Timothy Dwight who are so little known to the average American; and stranger still is the fact that even those who might be expected to have some knowledge of him have usually been under the misapprehension that he was the kind of person of whom the less said the better. The late Professor Parrington, for example, knew only of the Dwight whose allegiance and loyalties were to the past, and it is true that in his Federalism and his identification with Puritanism, his opposition to the egalitarianism and religious "infidelity" of the French Revolution, Timothy Dwight represented the *ancien régime* or what might be called the privileged classes of New England. Said Parrington, "The great Timothy, in short, seems to a later generation to have been little more than a walking repository of the venerable Connecticut *status quo*."

But as Dr. Cuninghame so clearly reveals to us, there was another and a more likable side to the character and nature of Timothy Dwight. To his contemporaries, he was an eloquent and popular preacher, handsome and distinguished in appearance, charming and considerate of others, a man of great insight and understanding. He was amazingly versatile in his abilities and his interests and enthusiasms were well nigh unlimited. Here was no second Cotton Mather wrestling with the devil in his study but a great lover of life, of men, of nature, and of his native land. (Let the reader verify these statements for himself by reading Dwight's *Travels; in New-England and New-York*.)

Over and above all other abilities and aspects of his life stands the fact that he was a progressive and extremely able educator. Under his leadership, Yale College became an incomparably better institution than it had been. In his conception of the curriculum, methods of instruction, and equality of opportunity for women, he was several generations ahead of his time and ranks easily as one of the foremost figures in the early history of American education. Anyone interested in this aspect of our heritage will read Dr. Cuninghame's chapters, "Dwight's Academy," "President of Yale," and "College Life Under Dwight," with great satisfaction and profit.

The subject of religion, of course, is inextricably associated with Timothy Dwight and is the chief reason, I think, for the fact that although he was one of the foremost New Englanders of 1800 he was reduced to almost complete oblivion in the history of America. No doubt he owed much to the accident of birth which made him a grandson of Jonathan Edwards, but it is even more certain that he paid a heavy price for this identification with the great Puritan divine. It placed upon him so ineradicably the stamp and heritage of Calvinism that it seems not to have occurred even to Dr. Cuninghame to raise the question as to whether Timothy Dwight really was a Calvinist. This is not the place to analyze theological problems, but Dwight's sermons as well as his other writings place him definitely in the evangelical fold with the Methodists and Baptists and the other Arminians who were to become the dominant religious forces in America in the nineteenth century. Timothy Dwight was an orthodox theologian only in the sense that he did not repudiate the Puritan tradition as did many of his contemporaries who became Unitarians. His opposition to deism or the religion of rationalism was shared by all other evangelical Christians. Dr. Cuninghame has given us a good surface account of the religious

milieu of the times, but there is still a need for a more technical study and analysis of the place of Timothy Dwight in the history of American theology.

Dr. Cuningham has written a very readable as well as scholarly book. The professional historian would have preferred to have his footnotes where he could see them conveniently instead of in the back of the book, particularly because they indicate clearly the wide range of source material to which the author had devoted himself so diligently.

We are grateful to Dr. Cuningham for rescuing Timothy Dwight from his ill-deserved obscurity in our tradition, and especially in these times it is good for us to know intimately this man whose love for our country and whose high hopes for its future were so inspiring and contagious. For Timothy Dwight, America was God's chosen land and his favorite theme was to urge his fellowmen by word and deed so to live as to make our land a worthy example for all the world.

Oh happy state! the state, by Heaven design'd  
To reign, protect, employ, and bless mankind.

—Timothy Dwight, *Greenfield Hill*, p. 153.

*Columbia University*

G. ADOLF KOCH

*Parties in the United States.* By JOHN QUINCY ADAMS. (New York: Greenberg, Publisher, Inc., 1941. vii, 136 p. \$5.00.)

Publication for the first time in the year 1941 of an essay on Parties in the United States by no less a person than John Quincy Adams is an event of no small significance in the historiography of American politics and even diplomacy. So astonishing is it that one's first inclination is to wonder about the authenticity of the document. The manuscript is now the property of Mr. Charles True Adams of Chicago (apparently no direct descendant of the Presidents of that name). He got it from the dealer, Mr. Forest Sweet. An inquiry directed to Mr. Sweet about the provenance of the manuscript elicited the response that he could not remember when or where he got it! As the present owner says in the Preface to this publication, this manuscript is one of two copies, the other being in the Adams Papers now in The Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Both are in a copyist's hand, each by a different copyist. The one in the custody of The Massachusetts Historical Society is bound together with a longer manuscript entitled *An Answer to the Appeal of Certain Federalists*, 1829.

There is no question about the authenticity of the essay on Parties in the United States. It appears to be part of an outline, which speedily grew into a first summary draft of an intended work which the author never had time to expand and put in final polished form. A good guess is that it was written shortly before its author became President, since it stops with the year 1824 and does not have any certain internal references to events after that year.

The essay derives its value not only from the fact that the author grew up with the history of the new republic and with the development of its political parties and acted a significant role in them. It is also the work of one of the leading

American scholars of that day who made every effort to be objective, and succeeded to a remarkable degree. Important points and subjects touched (among many) are: the character and genius of Alexander Hamilton and his influence on the rise and fall, particularly the fall, of the Federalist Party; a not unfriendly estimation of Jefferson; the influence of the French Revolution on American politics and diplomacy; the Essex Junto, which drove Adams out of the Federalist Party after he approved the Louisiana Purchase and supported the Administration's policy toward England. Most cogent is Adams' scathing indictment of impressment. It ought to disillusion any present-day historian who believes that impressment was not contrary to international law of that time. If the author's own interests tinge the work it may be in his concern to show up the scannell sectional selfishness of New England Federalism in order to justify his own separation from this unpatriotic element. If this is an unconscious effort, it is successful.

Even in an obviously unfinished form this draft is an important addition to the historiography of political parties in the United States—the first study of the subject, which no future historian, or biographer of Adams, can afford to overlook. It would have been helpful if this manuscript could have been edited, with notes, by some scholar thoroughly familiar with the period, and provided with an index.

Yale University

SAMUEL F. BEMIS

*Naval Documents Related to the United States Wars with the Barbary Powers.* Captain DUDLEY W. KNOX, U.S.N. (Ret.), editor, Volume III, Naval Operations Sept. 1803 through March 1804. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1941. viii, 639. Illustrated. Maps. Index. \$4.00.)

To Philadelphians and the student of their history, this volume in the series of documents relating to our war with the Barbary Powers has particular interest. The period which it covers, September, 1803, through March, 1804, included an incident closely linked with the city not only in name but also in the *dramatis personae*. It was one which helped to form that tradition of skill and valor which has characterized the United States Navy throughout its existence. The incident was, of course, the grounding and subsequent destruction of the frigate *Philadelphia*. The thread of the story is well known to all: the frigate in chase of an enemy vessel struck an uncharted shoal and, despite the efforts of the commander to fight his ship, was taken by the Tripolitans; then after she had been floated and towed under the guns of the port, she was set afire by a group of American seamen under the command of Stephen Decatur, Jr., a feat which Lord Nelson called "the most daring act of the age." While every school boy has known that much of the story, even the specialist in naval history has known but little more.

Virtually every document and paper relating to the episode in public and private hands has been sought out by the Office of Naval Records; a careful selection broad enough to include all the details has been made and published verbatim. The volume covers not only this but also all the other operational details falling within the period. The two volumes preceding this and others to follow have done and will do the same thing for all the other naval events of the War.

It is significant and certainly augurs well for the future that the men who are today making history in our Navy have so sound a conception of the fact that the present can learn from the past.

Devon

M. V. BREWINGTON

*The Gold Rushes.* By W. P. MORRELL. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1941. xi, 427 p. \$3.00.)

*Gold Rush by Sea from the Journal of Garrett W. Low.* Edited by KENNETH HANEY. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1941. vi, 187 p. \$2.00.)

It should be difficult to find two books, as an assignment for a reviewer, more different in character and place in historical literature than are these two, although they both are related to the history of the gold rushes. One maintains the standards of the Pioneer Histories, while the other sets its own lively pace. The first is by a qualified historian, the second is by a participant in the California gold rush.

Mr. Morrell, Reader in History in the University of London, has written a volume which will find a lasting place among books about the gold rushes. It is of value not only to the reader interested in the general aspects of its subject, but also to the specialist in one of the areas covered. For each of the rushes it presents an outline of the discovery and exploitation of the region's gold. As a result of this aim there is included much of the basic detail; this is useful, but an American reader is apt to wish for better maps on which to locate places and routes. The volume itself is a pioneer, as the author recognizes in his preface. The authorities selected for listing at the ends of chapters will prove useful to the beginner in further scratching of the "surface of this rich deposit of historical material."

It would seem that Mr. Morrell's distinctive contribution is in the way he approaches the subject. The farther one reads the more it becomes apparent that each of the gold rushes has been examined in its relations to a definite pattern. Technical processes, transitions from simple economic structures to capitalistic social organizations, difficulties inherent in the geographical settings, governmental arrangements, dramatic phases of the lives of miners or diggers, and the effects of gold production on world economic structures are among the matters which are treated along with the historical survey of facts about discoveries and subsequent events. The book is a social history as much as, if not more than, it is a tale of adventure.

An introductory chapter traces the rise of man's interest in gold, from early Egyptian times. The second chapter is concerned with Brazil, where gold began to be a factor in the sixteenth century. The next episode is Siberia. It is not until the fourth chapter on California that the reader comes to a well-known gold rush. A succeeding chapter traces the spread of gold rushes to other parts of North America. One of the most interesting sections of the book is the chapter entitled "The Gold Rushes in American History." The story in Australia and the diamond-fostered rush in South Africa take their places. The volume ends with a treatment of gold in the Klondike and Alaska, and a summary. It is a comprehensive survey.

*Gold Rush by Sea* is described in the latest supplement to the catalog of publica-



tions of the University of Pennsylvania Press as: "Authentic Americana, and a brilliant farce as well, describing the day-by-day drama of personality and intrigue on board a clipper ship carrying gold seekers to California in 1851." There is no doubt that the little volume has a farcical appeal; indeed, amusement carries one to the point of wondering if, perhaps, it is not all too good to be true. Everything that is related might have happened; certainly an earthquake during the stop in Chile is not implausible and other details meet similar tests. A lack of editorial notes does not detract from the interest in the volume but emphasizes the general nature of its appeal. The book lives up to its title by giving a general picture of what life aboard ship en route to California around South America must have been. Later when Low was at work in various capacities in the gold fields he had less inclination, apparently, for writing in his diary as well as for the ladies. Less than a sixth of the book relates to his experiences in California, where his lot was not above the average.

Many things happened on the way to California. Two innocent young maidens, a bestial captain, the Reverend and Mrs. Thorne, Professor Dodd, who had the traditional pirates' map of buried treasure and Low and his brother were the principal characters in a cast to which came kidnapping, storms, mock trials, some music, love and sea sickness. The diary can be recommended as amusing Americana, both for readers who make a hobby of California and for those who are not averse to finding entertainment in unexpected places.

*University of Redlands*

DONALD C. DAVIDSON

*Commodore Vanderbilt: An Epic of the Steam Age.* By WHEATON J. LANE. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1942. xiv, 357 xii p. \$3.75.)

Cornelius Vanderbilt was no pioneer. His love for sail boats and sailing ships made him slow to enter steam shipping. His love for river, sound and sea made him slow to enter railroading. Reared in agrarian surroundings of stolid agrarian stock, for a long time he lived by the credo of thrift, frugality and hard work and he was always behind Drew, Fisk or Gould as a manipulator of securities.

Vanderbilt was one of the great ship designers of his day, one of the great sea captains, builder of one of the soundest railroad systems. Those who depict him simply as a despoiler of the public, a corrupter of politicians, a relentless competitor and business "blackmailer," see him only as a mirror of his times. He was all of these things. But so were Tom Scott of the Pennsylvania, John W. Garrett of the B. & O., William Fargo of express fame, Charles Morgan, George Law and Cornelius Garrison in shipping and many others with whom Vanderbilt fought during the half century of the most intense competition in American history. By the 1820's old commercial monopolies were crumbling in the United States. By the 1870's new industrial pools and trusts were appearing in increasing numbers. In the intervening years business rivalry was fierce and because he was most vigorous, most efficient, most adept at using the techniques of competition that were provided by his time, Vanderbilt emerged by far the richest man in the country. "If I could not run a steamship alongside another man and do it as well as he for twenty percent less

than it cost him," Vanderbilt once said, "I would leave the ship." And unlike the Astors or Goelets who never sold, depending upon the growth of the country to enhance their estates, Vanderbilt constantly changed his investments so that they always paid him his coveted 25 percent. He died in 1877 leaving a fortune of over \$100,000,000, more than two and one half times as large as those left by William B. Astor and A. T. Stewart, both of whom had died only a few months before the Commodore.

Much of the background for Vanderbilt's activities has been provided in the works of Robert G. Albion, Frank W. Stevens, Edward Hungerford and not least by Dr. Lane himself, whose *From Indian Trail to Iron Horse* set such a high standard in local and transportation history. The great value of the present work lies in its analysis of the qualities of enterprise that, given the common background, helped the Commodore to rise so far above his contemporaries in a freely competitive society. Manifesting the traditional "timidity of capital" in venturing into new lines, Vanderbilt also had the strength and foresight to develop those lines to their limits once he decided to engage in them. That he would ruthlessly remove any obstacle in his way was made clear by a domestic incident which led, with "no possible justification," to the commitment of his overworked wife to a "private asylum" because she objected so strongly to moving from rural Staten Island to 10 Washington Place, where the Commodore decided to build a home in order to live near his offices. Vanderbilt funk'd nothing in order to get an advantage over a competitor, and Dr. Lane, evenhanded and scholarly, matches the Commodore in thoroughness. Vanderbilt once exclaimed to a photographer: "Here, don't you rub out the wrinkles and paint me up that way. I ain't particularly pretty as I know of, but I'm damned if I'll travel in disguise." There is no disguise in this biography, which by the soundness of its evidence and sureness of its judgments, gives us at last a dependable picture of a man much praised and ferociously attacked by his own as well as by our contemporaries.

This volume is extremely well illustrated, abounding in contemporary engravings and photographs of great interest, as well as illuminating maps.

Dr. Lane is the winner of the first Alfred A. Knopf Fellowship in Biography. He richly deserved the award.

*New York University*

WILLIAM MILLER

*The Political Life of the American Medical Association.* By OLIVER GARCEAU. Harvard Political Studies, published under the direction of the Department of Government in Harvard University. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1941. xiv, 186 p. \$2.50.)

The American Medical Association (familarly referred to as the A.M.A.) is an organization with a voluntary membership (1940) of 66.8 per cent of all doctors of medicine in the United States. It is possible that the Association would remain as little known to the general public as are similar organizations of other professions, had not the thorny question of medical economics, emerging in recent years from a private, professional status into the public domain, induced the Association to adopt

an official position. Unfortunately, that position, not impassively maintained, far from providing a guiding light, succeeded in creating a disturbing amount of disaffection within and outside the organization. Thus, it is understandable that the time should have seemed ripe for a serious study of the political life of the A.M.A.

Mr. Garceau has anatomized the pyramidal structure of "organized" medicine from its lowest component, the county society, through the state society to the all-embracing A.M.A. and what he terms its "active minority"—the "little group that runs things." It is not possible, within the limits of a review appropriate to this *Magazine*, to anatomize, in turn, Mr. Garceau's dissection of this complicated structure. Suffice it to say that his study is in the modern idiom: it is vivacious, partly through the use of personalities, but with the accoutrements of scholarship—charts, percentages, a multitude of documentary and appendical footnotes, bibliography (which might more accurately have been termed *references*), and index. It has the final merit of being constructive. But its argument is frequently difficult to follow because of the loose use of recurrent ambiguous terms, a rather Germanistic continuity, and a seesaw effect undoubtedly produced by the author's evident desire to play fair (despite obvious personal convictions) with a highly controversial subject.

As possibly a pioneer study of the internal government of a voluntary group, thus opening up (as the author claims) another aspect of pressure politics, the work should be of interest to students of politics and government. Obviously, it should be of more poignant interest to the members of the medical profession. Some of the latter will undoubtedly regret that the study was not undertaken by one with a more authoritative knowledge of the details of a complex organization (almost impossible for an outsider to obtain) and by a writer less drawn to the "Merry-Go-Round" technique. On the other hand, some will feel that the tone of the official review of the book (*J.A.M.A.*, 117, no. 13, p. 1137, Sept. 27, 1941) merely substantiates one of the author's (and others') charges, that the A.M.A.'s "active minority" is unable to meet criticism without reducing an argument to a slugging match. It is hard to see how the best interests of the public, which are very much involved, can be served effectively when the mental climate is so unfavorable to the exercise of sweet charity. Personalities, in which both sides have indulged, always make good reading. But the public interest would now seem to demand another, conceivably less entertaining, approach to the problem.

Actually, the political life of the American Medical Association parallels pretty closely, we may suspect, that of most other professional organizations—perhaps even that of nations themselves. So long as politics continues to seem to us too "dirty" for our personal participation, we are better treated than we deserve.

Philadelphia

W. B. McDANIEL, 2D

*The Coming of the Civil War.* By AVERY CRAVEN. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1942. xiv, 491 p. \$3.75.)

*The Coming of the Civil War* is a study of the conflicting interests of four sections—the Northeast, the Northwest, the Southeast, and the Southwest—in the four

decades preceding secession. Its organization is trifurcated. The first part is devoted mainly to the southern pattern; the second considers the antislavery attack and the proslavery defense; and the third treats of political revolts, crises, and alignments. The value of the volume lies chiefly in two contributions: first, a new and apparently valid approach to the causes of the war; and second, a statement of sundry new viewpoints in sectional history advanced by scholars during the last quarter century. To Craven, the conflict was not irrepressible; it stemmed from emotional and psychological factors that made symbols more important than realities.

After indicating the fallacy that the South was a homogeneous section, Craven identifies the forces that made it southern: "a rural way of life capped by an English gentleman ideal, a climate in part more mellow than other sections enjoyed, and the presence of the Negro race in quantity." The traditional view of southern agriculture is rejected. That it "was a more tumble-down affair than was agriculture in other parts of America of that day is the worst of myths. Only differing physical conditions made its problems greater and its appearance, in some places, more ragged." Slavery is emphasized as "the symbol of all sectional differences and of growing fears and hatreds," yet it "played a rather minor part in the life of the South and of the Negro." Relations between masters and slaves, Craven indicates, were not far different from those existing between factory owners and their wage laborers. Nor was there an appreciable difference in the size of white and black families. Frederic Bancroft's thesis that slaves were consciously reared for the market is just as applicable, or inapplicable, to whites, the factory system, and northern farms as it is to Negroes and plantations. The concept that the nullification controversy was a contest between state rights and nationalism is likewise repudiated. The events of 1832 were neither "a manifestation of Southern sectionalism" nor a "beginning of secession." At that time, "The South as a conscious section did not exist," a sounder conclusion than Jesse Carpenter's thesis that the South was a conscious minority struggling to protect its rights throughout the period 1789 to 1861. As a modicum of miscellany, the western region "was ever a potential rebel"; the objectives of Lincoln, Douglas, and Vallandigham nearly converged; the Richmond *Enquirer* abandoned Douglas because of his *Harper's Magazine* article of September, 1859, not because of the Lecompton issue or the Freeport doctrine; the Ohio Valley, never pro-southern, sought to promote its own interest, but preferred the South to New England.

The book is, in the reviewer's opinion, the best treatment of the war's background. Historian and layman may read it with profit, for Craven, as usual, combines scholarship with brilliant literary craftsmanship. Apart from a few factual errors, it has only one serious defect. There are numerous misspelled proper names in text and footnotes, and there are scores of inconsistencies and errors in citations. If the analogy may be permitted, the volume resembles a cultured and polished gentleman of the Old South elegantly dressed for a New Orleans opera or St. Michael's in Charleston, except that he wore brogans and neglected the customary "brushing off" by the master's body servant.

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