hospital at Pittsburgh, which was the oldest Protestant hospital in America, founded in 1849; the oldest Protestant orphanage in the country begun by Passavant in 1852 and established at Zelienople in 1854; and St. John's Home for the Aged, established at Woods Run, Allegheny, in 1893 and later removed to Mars, Pennsylvania. Sketches of the Evangelisches Magazin, edited in the interest of the West Pennsylvania Synod, and of The Missionary, a weekly paper started by Passavant in 1848 and published at Pittsburgh, are included.

E. M. S.


Enlightenment as to the purpose of the president of the City Historical Society of Philadelphia in writing this book may be found in its dedication “to a better appreciation of the Valley of the Delaware and the part it played during the formative period of American history.” Between its covers are assembled many facts about men of importance who lived in the valley and about significant events that occurred there. Economic and cultural contributions of the region are given due prominence in chapters on “Industry and Transportation,” “Education,” “Science, Literature, Art,” “Religion,” and “Life in the Valley.” When one lays down the book it is with the conviction that much early American history was, indeed, made in the valley of the Delaware.

The book falls short, however, of being an adequate regional history. If the author has a sense of the growth and development of the region that he treats, he offers his readers little evidence of it. For one thing, he sets no boundary toward which he carries his story, but allows each chapter to find its own terminus; thus he says little, if anything, of the growth of population and the development of urban centers, and yet he deals with the setting up of industries during the eighteen thirties and with the valley’s part in the Civil War. For another thing, his use of the topical method tempts him to jump forward and backward through time with such facility that his readers must necessarily find it difficult to bear in mind correct time relationships. Although the author recognizes the existence of the essential unity of the valley—a unity that makes the region an appropriate subject for separate treatment—he fails to utilize this unity as an integrating and synthesizing factor. The history therefore is rather a recital of events of local or national importance that took place in the valley.
than the story of the unfoldment of the region. For the purposes of western Pennsylvania history, the chief value of the book lies in the information that it gives about the cultural background of those pioneers who crossed the mountains from the valley of the Delaware to that of the upper Ohio. Of especial interest in this respect are the chapters on the various racial groups, particularly those on the Germans and the Scotch-Irish and those on religion and social life.

The volume is attractive in format, and the illustrations, which consist of old prints and photographs of surviving relics, are interesting. A bibliography is lacking, but the footnotes indicate that the author used a wide range of standard secondary works and printed sources. The index appears to be substantial.

*Pittsburgh*  
*Marian Silveus*