In this scholarly volume Dr. McCadden presents a combination of the history of education in Pennsylvania from 1801 to 1835 and the educational biography of Roberts Vaux, who was intimately connected with the educational history of that period. The real purpose, however, seems to be to outline the educational contributions of Vaux. The educational history appears to be presented merely to make the work of Vaux stand out more vividly.

The first part of the opening chapter deals with the various attempts made in Pennsylvania immediately after 1800 to spread useful knowledge through various organizations and activities such as the charity schools operated by private organizations, the learned societies and libraries, and the enactment of certain state legislation concerning education, particularly the chartering of academies and colleges and the enactment of the Poor Laws of 1802, 1804, and 1809. In the opinion of the reviewer, the latter part of this chapter is the best part of the entire book. Here the author clearly discusses four particular educational movements which preceded and helped bring about the universal education movement in Pennsylvania. These were the Lancastrian school, the infant school, the Mechanics' Institute and Lyceum, and Manual Labor movements.

The second chapter deals with the connections and activities of Vaux in these various educational societies and movements; the next presents him as the founder and first president of the Philadelphia public schools; and in the last chapter an attempt is made to show the important part Vaux played in the establishment of the free state-wide public-school system in Pennsylvania.

In reading the latter part of the book one is nearly overawed by the extensive philanthropic and educational activities of Roberts Vaux. He was connected with more than fifteen societies and organizations of this type and was either the founder or the head of a number of them. He helped found and was very active in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Other important societies with which he was connected were the Athenaeum, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Public Schools.

To readers in western Pennsylvania it may of interest to know that frequent reference is made to the early educational activities of this part of the state. The book refers to the chartering of Jefferson College (Canonsburg) in 1802,
Washington College in 1806, Allegheny College (Meadville) in 1817, the Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) in 1819, Madison College (Uniontown) in 1826, and the Western Theological Seminary in 1829. Mention is made of the Act of 1820 enabling Pittsburgh to establish a Lancastrian school here. Favorable comment is made upon the educational interest in Pittsburgh manifested in the Pittsburgh Philosophical Society and the Western Pennsylvania Lyceum. The latter was “organized for the object of establishing manual labor schools in the vicinity of Pittsburgh,” and was “actually responsible for the formation of such a school at Zelienople in 1833” (p. 83). Lastly, several references are made to the activities carried on here in co-operation with the Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Public Schools; for example, it is noted that in 1831 the Pittsburgh Teachers’ Association obtained 1,050 signatures, and Benjamin Bakewell, who was connected with the Pittsburgh Mechanics’ Institute, procured a long list of subscribers, to memorials for the establishment of a general state system of schools.

In spite of its dual nature, the book is both scholarly and interesting. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the educational and intellectual activities of Pennsylvania which preceded and at the same time helped bring about the establishment of our universal system of public schools will find this book enlightening.

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**John A. Nietz**

_The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania: A Record of Building before 1860, Based upon the Western Pennsylvania Architectural Survey, a Project of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, with an Introduction by Fiske Kimball. Text by Charles Morse Stotz, A.I.A., chairman of the survey. (Published by William Helburn, Inc., New York, for The Buhl Foundation, Pittsburgh, 1936. 290 p. Illustrations, map.)_

If, as the author of the text states, architecture is the shorthand of history, the casual reader of this book may quickly satisfy his desire to delve into the latter absorbing and enlightening branch of knowledge. The entry of the architect into the field of local history is an occasion for rejoicing on the part of all those interested in the quickening of the study of the past in this region. The true historian, moreover, welcomes the trained observer in any art or science who is willing to dig into the past of his chosen field. The historian