sources and contradicts many accepted facts and theories previously unquestioned.

The book recounts the earliest teams, their rivalries, their coalescence as leagues through all the turmoil of a growing sport in the 19th Century. Minor errors creep in periodically, such as matters of fact, misspelling of names and wrong dates.

But all in all, it is an engrossing work to deep students of the game and to appreciate the 1961 status of baseball it is a worthwhile exposition of historical background in the same sense which makes it necessary to be familiar with American history in order to understand present-day developments.

Mr. Seymour depends upon "hitherto unknown sources" for much of his material and follows the progress from a purely amateur sport to one of professionalism, principally due to the National League and its early President, William A. Hulbert. He was graduated from Drew University in 1934; received a master's degree and Ph.D. from Cornell University, where he was awarded a doctorate for a thesis on the history of baseball—a strange theme indeed for a doctorate. Mr. Seymour is at present an Associate Professor of History at Finch College in New York.

Present-day readers will look forward to a volume bringing the history up to date, more within the special range of their experiences and memories. This is a highly useful book for the student and for the collector of baseball lore.

*Pittsburgh*  
WILLIAM E. BENSWANGER

*The Welsh in America, Letters from the Immigrants.* Edited by ALAN CONWAY. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1961. 341 p., index, bibliography. $6.00.)

A welcome addition to the part of history that deals with mankind in motion is this collection of 197 letters written by Welsh emigrants about America in the nineteenth century.

Mr. Conway, lecturer in American history at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales, chose letters to families, friends, and newspaper and periodical editors to reveal the role of the "corporal's guard of the big battalions of emigrants" that entered the United States in the nineteenth century. The letters, the majority of which are translated from the original Welsh, depict
the puritanical beliefs, adversities and destinies of the settlers in their crossing of the Atlantic and settlement in industrial centers or farming areas of the United States. Many contrast working conditions here and in Wales while others comment upon government, education, taxation, war and panic.

A contrast in opportunities for the immigrants is revealed in the letters. From the farming areas are solicitous pleas for fellow countrymen to come and obtain land, while from the industrial centers are warnings of the strikes and union troubles.

The panorama of the trek of Welsh settlers across the United States is presented in the author's geographical and chronological arrangement of the letters. By 1860 nine-tenths of the Welsh were concentrated in northern states. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin accounted for eighty-five per cent of them. Some of the adventurous adapted their skills to gold, silver and copper mining in the western states. Others caught the spirit of the Mormon missionary movement in Wales in 1840 and journeyed across the plains in search of Zion.

There are visionary letters such as B. W. Chidlaw's, written from Ohio in 1841: "I have my serious apprehensions that the cruel and unrighteous system of southern slavery will, at no distant day, rend this Union and involve us in all the horrors of a civil and servile war."

The struggles of a few emigrants to found strong Welsh settlements are revealed but history records the rapid assimilation of the Welsh. According to Mr. Conway, this took place when Welsh nationalism and the desire to preserve the Welsh language in Wales were at their lowest ebb. A fitting epilogue to their story is the letter of Reverend D. S. Davies from New York in 1872. He is seeking settlers for Patagonia to found a new Wales and bemoans the prospect for success of the Welsh language in America, a country lacking a Welsh college, a Welsh bookstore and a Welsh public library.

To genealogists the book may lack the thread to weave a family pattern. The author points out the virtual impossibility of identification of any one specific with the common Welsh surnames.

The book is documented with notes and a bibliography. Excellent prefatory chapters set the historical stage for the letters. The author cautions the reader that he is at the mercy of the editors of Welsh newspapers and periodicals, the chief source of these letters. Many of the editors acted as filters. There is an indication that
additional materials exist in the Welsh periodicals published in the United States. These are good sources for letters from the Middle and Far West.

The index proved a little disappointing with such entries as Eisteddfod, (choral) singing, literary meetings, religion and schools appearing only under places, while such entries as temperance, secession, and land clearing are key words.

University of Pittsburgh Library

Glenora M. Edwards

Tintypes in Oil. By Ernest C. Miller. (Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1960.)

Tintypes in Oil, by Ernest C. Miller, is a collection of eight short biographies of a handful of the famous and the infamous early oil pioneers, who operated in the oil fields of northwestern Pennsylvania, plus the story of an early oil "boomtown." This is a well-documented account of the careers of men who were there when it all began. While some of the stories presented are well known to people interested in early oil history, sufficient research has been done by the author to assure a measure of new material for every reader. Here is a story of the road, of travelers who come and go, of self-contained episodes against colorful if somewhat muddy backgrounds.

"The Mighty Mite" was Henry R. Rouse, the typical poor boy who grew rich through his own efforts plus a suitable amount of luck. He was in the oil business less than nineteen months, building a fortune, losing his life at Rouseville from burns received when his famous Rouse well caught fire. He died bravely and is remembered primarily for the wise disposition of his wealth.

While much has been written about John Wilkes Booth, "The Handsome Speculator," very little has been told of Booth as an oil operator. If his petroleum venture had been successful, it is extremely likely he would never have assassinated President Lincoln. This story inspects Booth's life and his oil enterprise in the Franklin area.

John Washington Steele, better known as Coal Oil Johnny, in "Meet the Prince of Petrolia," inherited an oil fortune from his foster mother. His life became an endless chain of confidence men,