

is not purely historical. It is an object lesson, to whomever it concerns, in good historical writing. After a comparison with expository and commemorative works on many public and university libraries, it becomes apparent that an amazing amount of information is packed into these 154 very readable pages. In view of its limited field of readership, this book exemplifies the old adage that "A thing worth the doing is worth doing well."

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

EDWARD G. WILLIAMS

*An Investigation of America's First Oil Well. Who Drilled It?* By ERNEST C. MILLER. (Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1964. 66 pp. \$3.00.)

This may be a prejudiced review, but the reviewer believes it to be accurate. He knows the author, is familiar with his methods, is aware of his thirst for accuracy, and knows that his sources of information are far-flung. In short, the reviewer thinks that he himself is in the position of the home plate umpire: right on top of the pitch.

The pitch is right across the plate. Mr. Miller set out to resolve the claims of the United States and Canada as to who drilled the first well for oil on this continent. He finds in the U. S. a completely documented case — the letters, ledgers and other papers dating from the emergence of the original idea until after the Drake Well came in successfully. Based on this evidence, any lawyer would go to bed secure in the certainty that he had Drake's case won.

But in Canada it is different. Vagueness is the most apt word. The written evidence consists of newspaper articles and other sources with non-existent or indifferent dating.

Mr. Miller digs. He examines carefully everything he uncovers. He is, above all, "Kind to the Kanadians" (reviewer's phrase). His is not a jingoistic report. It is as impartial as rain, which knows no geographic lines. And, in addition, it is absorbing reading — which, alas, is not common in the field of history.

*Titusville, Pennsylvania*

JAMES B. STEVENSON