This book demonstrates impressively the author's familiarity with and practice of traditional historical method. Camden's economic and political activities are traced with a patience that often results in tediousness, while the reader is thrown into confusion by a mass of unimportant details. The account is as serene and undramatic and uninterpretive as though written by a man from Mars, nor can the author be accused of favoring Camden unduly on the evidence here presented. In fact Camden emerges as a man practically devoid of every instinct save his flair for business and politics. He must have been one of the most colorless men of his era; there were, apparently, in his life no daring forays, no dramatic coups, no palpitating on the edge of accomplishment. Even his crusades in defense of big business seem to have been conducted in the spirit of a student writing a term paper. We are left to judge that he led no family life, had no hobbies outside of tarpon fishing, possessed no intellectual or cultural interests, and was about as sociable as a Rocky Mountain sheep herder.

University of Pittsburgh Press

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A Social Study of Pittsburgh; Community Problems and Social Services of Allegheny County. By PHILIP KLEIN and collaborators. (New York, published for the Social Study of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County by Columbia University Press, 1938. [xxxviii], 958 p. Illustrations.)

This book has already become the object of some controversy, as will, perhaps, always be the fate of books that essay to appraise anything so near to us as present local history. Especially is this liable to be true if the problems under discussion are of a social nature. A Social Study of Pittsburgh could not, therefore, expect to be greeted with individual acclaim.

It is, however, a book that merits very close reading by residents of this community who wish to understand themselves and their environment. From the historical viewpoint it will prove particularly illuminating if read together with the Pittsburgh Survey of 1908 and the Survey of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches, 1921. Though planned as a study of social work and social services in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, the authors have found it necessary, in painting the background, to include much material illustrative of economic and social life. In fact, all of part one, pages 3–346, a respectably-sized book in itself, is devoted to the "Social and Economic Background."

In most respects this first part is the pièce de résistance, so far as the profes-
sional historian is concerned. After an introductory chapter, entitled "Scope and Perspectives," Mr. Klein and his collaborators undertake in the second a discussion of "Allegheny County as a Place in which to Live." They disown all claim to scientific exactness, but call attention, with every right, to the fact that "counties, generally, are no-man's-lands in research," and that "Allegheny County is no exception." Pages 92 to 101 carry a description of "Community Individualism" within Allegheny County, which is familiar to the experience of every resident, but which is almost never given its proper emphasis in local historiography. Here it is dealt with respectfully as an historical fact of considerable importance, and an honest effort is made to explain its causes and consequences. Almost all of chapter 3, "The Chances for a Living in Allegheny County," consists of an abridgment of Dr. J. P. Watson's Economic Backgrounds of the Relief Problem in Allegheny County, published last summer by the Bureau of Business Research of the University of Pittsburgh. The startling fact is here revealed that jobs were tending to dry up in Allegheny County even in the "roaring Twenties,"—long before the hard times that began in 1929. Here, and in Dr. Watson's larger study, is basic information on the economy of Allegheny County that no local historian can afford to ignore in favor of romantic incidents and genealogical tables.

The next chapter, on "Social Legislation and Labor Organization," contains much less original and much less purely local stuff, but is an interesting revelation of the increasing realism of the social worker's profession. Not only this chapter but the whole volume gives evidence that the particularistic, individual-family, and philanthropic viewpoint in social work is rapidly giving way to one that has its counterpart in the spirit of big business, mass associations, and the inexorable concentration of governmental functions in the hands of larger units. There are not extant anywhere but in this volume fifty printed pages descriptive of housing conditions in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Camouflaged under the title "Physical Conditions of Life", this important aspect of local social history is discussed, not, to be sure, in the objective, narrative style of the historian, but yet on the basis of studies and documents which the historian must use and which are here made accessible to him in quotations and footnotes. Needless to say, this chapter furnishes irrefutable proof of dilapidation and neglect, but also of heroic efforts by a few civic leaders whose names the future local historian will have to write large upon his pages. Chapter 6, on "Racial and Ethnic Stratification," deals with an old subject, well represented in the literature of both national and local history, yet the table on page 240
throws a clear light on certain aspects of recent political history in this community, showing that the native white population of Allegheny County with native parentage is but 42.4 per cent of the total, whereas in the state it is 56.1 per cent, and in the United States 57.1 per cent. How differently these foreign groups are treated in the schools may be seen by comparing the University of Pittsburgh's nobly planned nationality rooms with the quoted comment of a high school superintendent (p. 245): "We rarely have any contact with the foreign-born parents of the children [high school students] here. As a matter of fact they are all liars and we simply take this for granted and don't believe anything they say." For those who deplore the clannishness of the "foreigners," this chapter contains food for thought.

Chapter 7, on "Social Attitudes, Public Opinion, and Pressure Groups," carries more controversial material than any other. This is essentially a study in public opinion on the most dangerous issues in the community—labor relations, social overlordship and servitude, and the conflict between dominant and dominated groups during the last decade. It is dangerous ground, but the survey may be termed objective when it is remembered that it was made in 1934 and 1935. The Pittsburgh public schools are appropriately described in chapter 8 as "An Example of Progress."

Part two, "Social Services and Health Services for Allegheny County", chapters 9 to 21, is devoted to the special interests of the social work profession, but is not without significance also to the local historian. The various social agencies, both public and private, are analyzed, something of their history is related, and recommendations made for reorganization and development.

Though not a piece of professional historiography, the Social Study does, as already indicated, possess deep significance for local historians. It fairly bristles with intriguing subjects for historical research, and contains in footnotes references to many valuable but little known manuscripts. Much of the text itself will prove historical source material, since it is so largely a record of actual observations by qualified specialists.

It is safe to say that this study will always stand as a monument to the best public conscience of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. It is the last in a short, but growing series of community self-analyses. Such analyses do not usually result in sudden, momentous achievement, but they do denote an earnest public self-criticism that will keep the community on the highway toward achievement. Dr. Klein's staff is listed in appendix A, and the brief biographical sketches amply reveal its competence. The Citizen's Committee which spon-
ored the Social Study, headed by Mr. R. Templeton Smith and carrying the names of thirty distinguished members, deserves gratitude, as does also the Buhl Foundation for its generous financial support.

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The population movement from all the world to the North American continent exceeded all previous migrations in human history. Never before had an enormous number of people with diversified cultural patterns changed in a comparatively peaceful manner their former place of dwelling so suddenly. No wonder that for a long time this movement was looked upon as the new hope of western civilization. People everywhere looked upon this continent as the only place where the experiment of a "melting pot" would show its feasibility. While we may be far away on this continent from a biological "melting pot" such as Zangwill seemed to have dreamed of in years gone by, nevertheless a cultural "melting pot" has been established. The cities, industries, schools, and libraries—the whole industrial culture that we see in the United States today—are the products of the diversified cultures brought from all continents to these shores.

The editors of this valuable and informative volume attempt to bring to the great reading public in compact textbook form all the available information as to how each one of the selected ethnic units contributed to the upbuilding of the United States. The editors have considered the vast field and have attacked the subject first from a theoretical point of view to show attitudes of majority groups to minorities—the native population to the newcomers, the white race toward the red, yellow, and black. Secondly they have attacked it from an historical point of view, revealing the behavior of minority groups in the new environment, their activities, and their creative efforts.

The first part of the subject, since it is based on administrative regulations and individual opinions as expressed by "specialists" who have dealt with the subject of "Americanization," is excellently dealt with in Part I.