BROWN AND ROUCEK: MINORITIES

sored 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.
The second part of the account, for which approximately 488 pages have been used with the intention of giving some reliable information about the history of the several groups and their contributions to the upbuilding of certain regions, is partly a failure. More specifically, the chapters on the history of the natives and those older immigrant groups about which historians have already gathered enough material to outline the particular groups' activities, are informative and acceptable. Information in those chapters dealing with the newer immigrant groups, however, is based on sociological studies of the last thirty years and offers nothing in addition to the scant contents of the pseudo-scientific books that have been thrown upon the market by social workers and sociologists under the pretense of carrying out "Americanization work."

The editors could excuse this lack of information regarding the history of nearly eighteen nationalities belonging to the new immigrant groups with the argument that no historian has yet touched the field and that historical information is limited. Yet to the reviewer it seems inexcusable that the thirty-six sociologists who have contributed to this volume should neglect to indicate how certain groups through their mass activity have made their contributions in industry. For instance, the authors compete with each other in claiming as representatives of various countries the same personalities. The author of the German chapter claims H. C. Frick of Pittsburgh as one of the German group's contributions to industry, while on page 199 the writer on the Swiss population would like to have Frick considered as a representative of the Swiss group. Both overlook the fact that all speculative methods of this "coke king" would have been futile had not the native population and the older and newer immigrant groups of western Pennsylvania furnished the needed brawn.

It is also inexcusable that where the authors had no original material about the activity and contribution of a particular group they substituted for it stories of individual successes. As if individuals in our modern democratic state could have the same power of contribution as the kings in the small principalities of the Renaissance period! The authors, when discussing their favorite personalities, are not even careful in their designation of ethnic origin. Albert Einstein (page 192) becomes "the naturalized Swiss"; Konrad Bercovici (page 329), "half-Jewish, half-Gypsy"; Joseph Pulitzer (page 318), "the Hungarian," and so on.

The historian of mass movements is especially disturbed when he notices that persecutions as reasons for emigration are overemphasized. This reviewer can authoritatively state that the beginning of the emigration movement of the
Slovaks, Ukrainians, Roumanians, and South Slavs of Hungary was not a result of persecution, as stated in this volume. Purely economic reasons were the deciding factors: bad crops, scarcity of land, and the temporary unemployment originating from the industrial revolution. It appears that the editors of this book, as well as previous ones on this subject, believe with Seton Watson, the English historian, that “political persecution” was the reason for emigration of central Europeans in the eighties of the last century. The reviewer, in going over the American consular reports dealing with the mass movement of central Europeans of that time, found no word mentioned to the effect that “persecution” was the basis for emigration. On the other hand, economic reasons such as those mentioned above are indicated.

While the “specialist” may not find any new idea expressed in this book, nevertheless the editors have fulfilled a very beneficial task from the point of view of teachers, social workers, and all those who have dealings with the great public. These people will find this volume a great help in dealing with the members of the various ethnic units with which they come in contact. The book might well help a native-born group leader to understand second-generation children; and it will help in promoting an understanding of the past of all those groups that compose the present population of western Pennsylvania.

As for the local historian, he will find that a number of persons whom he considered native Pittsburghers in reality originated from certain sections of Europe. The selected bibliography will give the reader the authors and titles of the most important historical and sociological works that have been written about the various groups of which the population of the United States is composed.

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In the field of American history, the student and scholar have come to realize that bibliographical aid is a vital necessity. They will find to their delight that an indispensable new aid is now at their service. An attempt has been made to make a comprehensive collection of bibliographical materials for research in American history. The material is well arranged, thoroughly classified, and has a useful author and subject index. The bibliographical data were ob-