volume is of value to members of this historical society. The last five chapters, in particular, treat topics commonly included in books devoted to the history of this region.

The merits of the earlier volumes can be found in this one. In no single volume has such material been hitherto assembled. Within each chapter the literary organization and exposition is definitely superior. On the other hand, the impression of the volume as a whole is somewhat that of cross sections and pen pictures. The inclusion in one work of so many topics, not closely related, geographically and logically, is open to criticism. The problem of unity in historical writing is a serious one. The combination of complete, first-hand scholarship and comprehensive unity is difficult to attain in a work of this scope. Individual scholarly monographs have been, or may be, written not only on the chapter topics, but, in fact, on some of their varied aspects or numerous details. The production of scholarly monographs on small topics is relatively easy. So also is a general work that is not monographic. A monographic general work is much more difficult. Excessively acute recognition of this, however, on the part of historians would possibly inhibit production of works of high value to general learning, such as these volumes on the British Empire. The wide perspective, in such a presentation as Professor Gipson is setting forth, justifies the endeavor to combine two different types of historical writing. A general contribution to learning may be more valuable to society as a whole than a particularized monographic contribution to specialized scholarship.

If and when completed, The British Empire before the American Revolution will be a significant contribution to British and American historical understanding. Volume four is a credit both to its indefatigable author and to his excellent publisher. The binding and typography are excellent. The book is unusually free of errors of significance. The index is very extensive. Provision for the utilization of the volume could hardly be improved upon. Booklovers able to buy this relatively expensive set of volumes are advised to add them to their literary possessions.

University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James

We Who Built America: The Saga of the Immigrant. By CARL WITTKE, Ph.D., professor of history and dean of the college of arts and sciences, Oberlin College. (New York, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1939. xviii, 547 p.)

This volume presents the first birds-eye view of immigration to the United States from the beginning to the present which is detailed and scholarly enough
to merit the dignity of being called a history. There were of course many monographs and articles on phases of the subject which the author could utilize, but the work, it is self-evident, is in no small part based on original research. The method of analysis is inductive, for the evidence on the part of the immigrant in building America is made up of thousands of names and instances. No important nationality that this reviewer can recollect is omitted. The original English settlements are accepted as the fundamental element, but thereafter every other immigrant people even down to the present day Mexicans come in for treatment; the Irish, for example, are awarded eighty pages out of 518 pages of text, the Germans receive 105, and the later arrivals from southern and eastern Europe receive fifty.

Particularly valuable for their syntheses are the treatments of conditions of immigration, of nativism, of state promotion of immigration, of “immigrant Utopias,” and of “culture in immigrant chests.” The last named is particularly stimulating; in these days of runaway pro-anything-but-pro-American propaganda it comes as a healthy reminder that the United States is a nation unique in the modern world, that its blood, its customs, and its culture are composites of all the nations of Europe and even to some extent of Africa and Asia; that no one fatherland has a right to demand our exclusive sympathy, for we have many fatherlands.

Western Pennsylvania, while often mentioned, comes in only occasionally for separate treatment, notably in connection with the Scotch Irish and the Germans. In fact, if this reviewer has any complaint about Professor Wittke’s approach to the subject, it is that he did not make his study even richer by delving deeper into the history of the immigrant in Western Pennsylvania. But, on the other hand, we in this region are culpable for not having had the material ready to his hand.

The book will prove particularly valuable to the student and the teacher, but, though it is unusually well written and always interesting, at least to the serious reader, it is not light enough for the general reader nor is its format likely to attract him. The footnotes will be invaluable to anyone who wishes to pursue the subject farther, and the index is refreshingly adequate.

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