

BOOK REVIEWS

Anthony Wayne, Trouble Shooter of the American Revolution. By HARRY EMERSON WILDES. (New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1941. xv, 514 p. Maps, portrait.)

OF BIOGRAPHIES of historical figures there is no end in number. This is the fourth biography of Anthony Wayne which has appeared within a dozen years. It may be said to be justified as another biography of a familiar character by the fact that in many ways it is a decided improvement on earlier ones.

A guess at the purpose of a biographer is interesting. Three somewhat distinct purposes may be imagined. The author might be merely literary and use biography mainly as a vehicle of impressionistic writing. He might be fundamentally historical and merely use a given biography as a convenient thread upon which to hang the history of a period. He might, however, be mainly concerned with the delineation of a man's personality and character. Conceivably an author might have either two or all three of these purposes.

Mr. Wildes seems to have been mainly concerned with the personality and character of Anthony Wayne, but he has not neglected the history of the stirring times in which Anthony Wayne lived and played his role, nor is he without the merit of a lively and dramatic style. Yet the highest value of the book is doubtless expressed in the publishers' statement on the paper cover, "In this full length portrait we see not only Wayne the soldier, but also the politician, the financial speculator, the ladies' man, the society dandy—one of the most engaging figures of the American past."

Unlike many of the more impressionistic biographies of recent decades, this volume is solidly based on extensive and intensive reading and research. Unfortunately this is not adequately revealed in the alleged bibliography, pages 489-501. For some unaccountable reason, so far as scholarship is concerned, most of the vast manuscript material is omitted from the bibliography and incorporated in "Notes," p. 465 f. And for the purposes of historical scholarship, these "Notes," even when organized by chapters, are a very unsatisfactory substitute for specific references to materials, with the references at the bottom of the corresponding page. If a volume is impressionistic only, it does not need references nor even a bibliography. If the work done is as thorough as has been the case here, there is no good reason for not making the volume serviceable to others by specific reference to the location of the source of the evidence.

Mindful of the fact that the purposes of authors vary, the reviewer closed the volume with the feeling that the personality and character of Wayne had

been emphasized and possibly extolled at the expense of his contemporaries and without a very clear depiction of the course of events and what they were all about. Wayne seems to overshadow somewhat the American Revolution itself, when in fact he was merely a feature of the larger whole. The general historians of the period have not given him so much significance and distinction.

The volume is well bound, on unglazed paper, printed in large type, and provided with a portrait and five satisfactory maps. As a successful and scholarly delineation of a striking if not wholly admirable personality it is well worth one's money and time.

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ALFRED P. JAMES

Pennsylvania: A Regional Geography. By RAYMOND E. and MARION MURPHY. (Pennsylvania Book Service, 1937. x, 591 p. Maps, pictures, diagrams.)

THE reviewer has searched the social studies publications of Pennsylvania to find a review of this very excellent text but none has been found. Geography is especially important today because historians are recognizing that geography has something to offer them. The geographer recognizes the importance of history, the morphologic development, in any region he may study.

The authors are the first to present a regional study of any state in a comprehensive text for college use. It is a real contribution to regional geography. After years of research and writing, they have presented a text that is easy and enjoyable to read. They have a very pleasing style of writing and choose their descriptive words well. The limits of the regions are determined by various criteria, but the physical features of the state dominate the selection of them.

The text is divided into five parts, followed by an appendix and a bibliography. Part I, the introduction, is a general chapter about the land-use, people, industries, etc.

Part II begins with a study of land-forms, continuing with drainage and water resources, mineral heritage, climate, soils, and vegetation. Five diagrams and the major portion of the sixty-three maps are found here.

Part III deals with the landscapes of the past. The landscapes of Pennsylvania were: Indian (1600-1700), Colonial (1740), the leading agricultural state of the Union (1800), during the canal period (1840), at the crossroads (1870), trends between 1870 and 1930. Here the authors show how the state has developed in a morphologic way to the present. This should appeal to the historically minded student as well as to the general reader.