an objective historical finding, though the idea of achievement, at such tragic cost, is appalling.

The author himself asks five questions relating to "Any over-all judgment of Northern press performance during Civil War days" . . . The last of these, about "press performance" (not about the history of the war) interestingly enough, is, "And in what measure did their reporting have a propaganda, as well as an objective, value for the men in the service and the folks back home."

Dr, Andrews in his love for the history of journalism has not lost historical objectivity. The context, and particularly chapter twenty-four, reveal the numerous and mighty shortcomings and not uncommon criminalities of journalism. Yet the reader turns from such a work, however, excellently done, with several conclusions. The first of these is that something more than journalism must always be used in historical presentation. Another is that a much shorter and probably more important volume might be written on the influence of journalism, 1861-1865, on the totality of the story of those years in the United States.

In resume, this book seems to the reviewer highly valuable. It is, in current inflation, more than worth its list price and should have a large sale. A particular merit may be the very fact that it leaves the historical person, and probably others, discontented, dissatisfied with the picture so well presented.

Alfred P. James

Two Centuries of the Church of the Brethren in Western Pennsylvania. Compiled and published by the Historical Committee, District of Western Pennsylvania, Church of the Brethren. (Elgin, Ill., Brethren Publishing House, 1953. 644 pp. Appendix and Bibliography.)

This book will be of interest to a great many persons who have some ties with the people, known under the various names of Dunkers, German Baptists, Brethren or Church of the Brethren. Although the sect is not large in numbers, there are individuals in almost every community in Western Pennsylvania who were once affiliated with the Brethren, even though they now hold membership in another church. Beside these there are many more who are of Brethren descent. They
can remember mothers or grandmothers who wore the white "prayer covering" that was a distinctive part of the religious garb of Dunker women of an earlier day and which is still worn by some today.

Such persons will find this volume a source of information about the denomination in the various sections of Western Pennsylvania in which these early "plain people" settled. The sites of meeting-houses and the names of families and individuals who aided in the establishment and the support of congregations in the counties west of the Alleghenies are all duly recorded.

The volume establishes a date-line two centuries back, when three brothers, Eckerlin by name, settled for a while in what is, today, Greene County, on a creek that flows into the Monongahela about ten miles north of Morgantown. Sherman Day, in his Historical Collections of Pennsylvania, published in 1845, says:

"These men, Dunkards by profession, left the eastern, and cultivated parts of Penna., and plunged into the depths of this western wilderness. Their first permanent camp was on a creek, flowing into the Monongahela river, in the southwestern part of Pennsylvania, to which stream they gave the name of Dunkard Creek, which it still bears. These men of peace employed themselves in exploring the country in every direction, in which one vast, silent, and uncultivated waste spread around them."

Here is the answer to a question that arose in the mind of your reviewer over 35 years ago when he first came into that part of the state and wondered why and when the place names, Dunkard Creek and Dunkard were given to the creek and the town in the southeastern corner of Greene County.

The book is not the work of a single historian. A committee, appointed by the Western Pennsylvania District Meeting of the church, was charged with the responsibility of compiling a history of the district. An earlier History of the Church of the Brethren of Western Pennsylvania by Jerome E. Blough, 1916, was out of print and practically no copies were available. Consequently, the committee was assigned the task of rewriting the history of the period covered by the Blough book with the additional duty of bringing it up to date. The span of time from the arrival of the Eckerlins on Dunkard Creek in 1751 to the close of 1950 gave to the committee the title of the book.

A glance at the Table of Contents gives a clear understanding of
the way the material was organized. It is divided into three parts: Part 1, District Developments; Part 2, Congregational Histories; Part 3, Biographies. An appendix gives data about two of the most recent mission points, Erie and Monroeville. It also has an Index to Deeds, incomplete, but of value for those congregations for which information was available. It gives volume and page of the deed book in the county records for almost 90 church properties. There is also a listing of District Meetings, 1866-1952, which shows for each year, the place where the meeting was held and the names of Moderator, Reading Clerk, Writing Clerk and delegates to Annual Meeting.

The 20 chapters of the 1st Part give a brief background of the origin of the church in Germany and of the first congregation in this country at Germantown, Pennsylvania. Immediately thereafter the history plunges into the earliest Dunker settlements in Western Pennsylvania and then traces the growth of the church in a widening circle of congregations. It recounts the beginnings and subsequent development of Sunday Schools, Missionary Efforts, Youth Activities, Women's Work and Men's Work. Other chapters deal with Church Music, Higher Education, Books and Publications by Brethren authors, Brethren Service and the C.O. Camps.

A valuable chapter deals with the unfortunate schism that divided the denomination into three groups, an ultra-conservative or Old Order group, a Progressive group and a moderate, middle-of-the-road group. After 70 years the division continues even though the differences in belief and in practice between the last two groups are so slight today that it would seem they might easily be merged again.

Part 2 presents in 61 chapters the history of churches and congregations within the district. Part 3 is given over to brief biographies of about 450 individuals, both lay members and ministers whose work and influence contributed to the growth of the Church of the Brethren. The arrangement of each of these parts is alphabetical. The name of the person contributing the church history or the biography appears at the close of each write-up. Despite the large number of contributors there is a unity about the book that speaks well for the excellent editing of the material submitted.

Your reviewer has experienced a great deal of enjoyment in the leisurely perusal of this volume. If you have any interest in Brethren people you will find it equally rewarding.

Dana Z. Eckert