Indiana, travel and transportation; agriculture; banking; education; early churches; Mexican War; temperence, politics; constitutional convention of 1850; the Civil War; World War I; and World War II. Under each of these "Readings" a number of well chosen selections are included which present a rapid cavalcade of Indiana history.

Of special interest to readers of the Historical Magazine of Western Pennsylvania are such selections as George Rogers Clark's campaign, which was outfitted here in Pittsburgh Harmonie and New Harmony; Travel and Transportation, with a description of the New Orleans built here in Pittsburgh; and General John Morgan's raid through Southern Indiana and Eastern Ohio before his threatened attack (which never occurred) on Pittsburgh.

Other state historical societies and commissions might well consider issuing a volume or volumes patterned after this interesting work. The selections are not aimed at any one particular age level; rather, the editors express the hope that they will appeal to high school and college students alike, and to adults who are interested in reading about Indiana's past. This reviewer believes that these "Readings" will do just that.

University of Pittsburgh

John W. Oliver


With this publication another of the secondary leaders in the age of transition from free to controlled private enterprise has been evaluated. The author is to be congratulated not only on his choice of Stephen B. Elkins for a biographical study, but also for his presentation of new materials dealing with the times in which his subject lived. Most of these new materials are located in the Library of West Virginia University and are briefly described in the bibliography which is impressive except for the omission of the newspapers cited in footnotes. In an introductory paragraph the author states that he has not deemed it desirable to list newspapers, but since the footnotes contain a superabundance of such references (more than 40 per cent refer to newspapers), it is difficult to see how such an omission is desirable.

Like so many others of his day Elkins gained fame and fortune by exploiting the nation's natural resources. With his initial "strikes" com-
ing in New Mexico and Colorado, he later moved eastward to his adopted state of West Virginia. There with the cooperation of his father-in-law, United States Senator Henry G. Davis, Elkins became the most successful and influential coal, lumber, and railroad baron in the state. In gathering his material for this account of Elkins' career, Mr. Lambert demonstrated his skill as a researcher, but in his presentation he adhered too strictly to a chronological development. Although the element of time is paramount in all historical writing, it must nevertheless bear a satisfactory relationship to the subject-matter under discussion. For better balance and tighter organization the substance of the author's 24 chapters might well have been set forth in less than half that number.

Partly because of the nature of his business activities, Elkins developed a keen interest in politics. His introduction to the national arena came when he served as a delegate to Congress from the New Mexico Territory (1873-77). During this service he formed friendships with national leaders, but only one, James G. Blaine, gained his full approbation. Elkins attempted to perform for Blaine the role that Hanna played for McKinley. In 1876 and 1880 he failed to have his hero nominated by Republican national conventions, but four years later Blaine became the party's standard-bearer partly through the efforts of Elkins who then managed his almost successful campaign.

The West Virginian proved to be a better campaigner in his own behalf. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1895 and served in that body until his death in 1911. Quite out of character for an entrepreneur, Elkins led the fight in the Senate for two pieces of legislation which increased government regulation of industry. The Elkins Anti-Rebate Act of 1903, an important milestone between the Interstate Commerce Act and the Hepburn Act, strengthened the sections of the former relating to rebates and rate-cutting. The Mann-Elkins Act of 1910 not only extended the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission to include telegraph and telephone companies, but also gave it power to suspend proposed railroad rate increases until the courts had an opportunity to investigate their merit.

On the subject of the tariff Elkins' reaction was more typical of his business background. Since he desired to bring more industries to West Virginia, he wanted to keep tariff schedules for coal, iron ore, and lumber high. He fought bitterly to keep the first two from being placed on the free-list as the Payne-Aldrich Bill originally proposed.

Although there was a need for this first biography of Elkins, I do
not understand the haste in which it was produced. By some curious
quirk, the footnote adjustments normally taken to convert manuscript
copy to the printed page were overlooked. Furthermore, individual let-
ters referred to in the footnotes are not identified with the collections in
which they belong while newspapers are over-identified. For example,
newspapers with the names of such cities as New York, Chicago, and
Cincinnati in their titles do not need to be identified with their respec-
tive states, most assuredly not every time they are cited.

University of Pittsburgh

JAMES A. KEHL

Contemporary Social Thought: Contributors, and Friends. M. B.
ELMER. University of Pittsburgh Press. 1956. pp. viii, 256. Index
pp. 250-256. $5.00.

For a number of reasons this volume merits review in the Western
Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. It is written by a well known local sociologist who for many years was head of the Sociology Department
in the University of Pittsburgh. Sociology is essential in any but the
most narrow history. And in this volume the author has in a way written
good history, the history of the origins and development of sociology.

Dr. Elmer, in compiling this book, had two important advantages.
Unlike some fellow sociologists, he has long had the historical point of
view in regard to sociology and sociological developments. His interests
are many and varied, but he has wished to apply to them the principle
of evolution and the tool of scholarly historical research. And he has
personally observed intently and closely the establishment of profes-
sional sociology. As this treatise well indicates, he not only saw and
realized this rise of sociology, but was continuously associated with it,
and often himself a significant factor.

The merits of the publication are considerable. There is much analy-
sis of great sociological books, reports and articles. References in the
context and in footnotes furnish a good bibliography of sociological lit-
erature. And these references are of value to those active in other social
sciences. Peculiarly valuable are the treatments of the life and work of
many of the important individuals in sociology.

These sketches of important personalities and revelations of hith-
erto unrecorded incidents give this volume particular value.

The book will doubtless find circulation in the large world of pro-