who defended him against the accusation made by John Surratt when Surratt was interviewed by Hanson Hiss for a Washington Post article. The appreciative Weichmann asked for Richards's Florida address, and the correspondence began. The result: valuable insights on the trials of the conspirators, from 1898 through 1901. Richards had been superintendent of metropolitan police in Washington from 1861 through 1864, and had been present at Ford's Theater on April 14.

Finally, there is Surratt's interview with Hanson Hiss in the Washington Post, April 3, 1898. It contains nothing new about the trial, and may be considered to be a warmed-over version of his notes from the Rockville lecture.

Floyd Risvold's editing of this great mass of material is painstaking. He has given readers of Lincolniana access to an account of the conspiracy hitherto known but to few people. Weichmann's writing has fine narrative and descriptive power with excellent use of detail. It also creates a picture of a young man eager to lead a useful, happy life, but whose opportunity to do so was lost on April 14, 1865.

Pittsburgh

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Pennsylvania's Black History is a frustrating book. If it were not for the subject, the scope of the work, and the general tone of the writing, it would not be so frustrating. Then, one could simply put down the book and forget it. But the subject is timely, important, and interesting. This work is needed, and Blockson has made an attempt to be encyclopedic in his presentation. His style of writing is simple, adequate, and sometimes compelling; but having decided that this work is worth reading, the frustration grows out of its terrible organization.

Blockson has arranged his material in perhaps the worst possible manner for holding a reader's attention. He has broken the state down into groups of counties. Within this geographical arrangement are alphabetical entries, first of places and then of persons connected with black achievements in the state. But, in such an organization, there are no themes, no threads to hold the material together. Each brief item stands by itself, resulting in an extremely disjointed presen-
tation. Bluntly, it is irritating.

Furthermore, the index is wholly inadequate, as it only lists the names of the people presented in the text. If one is interested, for example, in the workings of the Underground Railroad, there is no way to get at such material except by patiently going through each and every entry. Then, bits and pieces emerge, surrounded by materials from both earlier and later dates.

In his attempt to make the work comprehensive, Blockson gives equal attention to every person or place that had a role in Pennsylvania’s black history. It would seem superfluous, at best, to include such entries as those on George Washington and John Greenleaf Whittier. Yet, all those, white or black, who resided in Pennsylvania for even the shortest time are included.

Errors of emphasis and of fact also mar the book to a certain extent. Examples of the first kind include Blockson’s suggestion that the defense of Columbia Bridge over the Susquehanna was a major factor in causing Lee’s defeat at Gettysburg (p. 42), and the statement that “black and white soldiers fought side by side” in every American military engagement (p. 122). Errors of fact include: the contention that Nicholas Biddle, injured in Baltimore on April 18, 1861, shed the first blood of the Civil War (p. 69), when casualties occurred in saluting Fort Sumter’s flag on April fourteenth; the misspelling of David Wilmot’s name as “Wilmont” (p. 68), and the assertion that Martin Delaney investigated possible black emigration to “other continents (including Canada, Central America, . . .)” (p. 85). Such problems, though minor, weaken what could have been a more valuable work.

In summary, the reviewer ended his task with mixed emotions. This tiny book is loaded with more information than many volumes twice its size. But it is not an easy book to read. The form is more encyclopedic than historical — suggesting, perhaps, a change in title. Yet, even here, the reader feels a sense of frustration. Most of the items are too brief. When the desire for further information is triggered, one is at a loss on where to continue the search. The bibliography is too brief; there are no sources appended to individual items.

Surely, there is a place for Blockson’s work on school and library shelves so that children, black and white, can glory in Pennsylvania’s black history. But a nagging doubt remains that, because of its organization, some may view Pennsylvania’s Black History as the structure — as well as the stuff — of history, and be “turned off” by that experience. The final question still remains: Can the book’s exciting
content overcome its frustrating structure?

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As an exponent of the new labor history, Herbert G. Gutman in this series of essays does more than describe an institutional history of labor. He comes to grips with time-honored preconceptions about work, workers, and the labor movement. Writing from a behavioral perspective, Gutman seeks to examine the persistence of powerful cultural continuities throughout the course of the labor movement.

The initial chapter, "Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919," reexamines the traditional viewpoint that the "work ethic" predominated as a driving force in the behavioral pattern of Americans during this nation's period of industrialization. Among numerous citations refuting the traditional viewpoint, the most telling is a sarcastic jibe from the Crockery and Glass Journal, which asserted that the factories "should be run to please the crowd."

The book is divided into four parts, "An Overview," "Black Coal Miners and the American Labor Movement," "The Industrial City," and "Local Behavior and Patterns of Labor Discontent in the Gilded Age." These treat American labor history in three industrial periods: the premodern period before 1843, the period from 1843 to 1893, when a tension existed between the older American preindustrial social structure and the development of industrial capitalism, and the period after 1893 when the United States had achieved the status of a mature industrial society. Due to the basic economic-social cohesion of the period 1843-1893 within the context of an emergent industrial society, Gutman casts American history within the framework of a different periodization than the usual political time spans stressed by traditional historians.

Gutman's essays are in the mainstream of the new labor history, whose aim, as noted by Thomas A. Kruger in the Journal of Social History is "to see whether class as an independent variable can be positively correlated with a wide range of dependent social and