all the kinfolk mentioned in the diaries. There are maps, photographs, explanatory footnotes, a thorough introduction, and chapter headnotes. The original characteristics of the text — odd spellings and the like — have been left intact.

Civil War soldiers' diaries are not rare, and Samuel's diary is not unusual. Neither is his character: he was determined to be a brave soldier, a true Christian, and a loving husband. His only idiosyncrasy seems to be hydropathy. Rachel's diary is one of the few we have from Civil War women, however, and it is more useful and interesting. It is especially good on domestic details: her baby's health, her daily chores, how "blue" she feels with Samuel gone (like him, she also wishes she had more religion). To understand the two of them is to understand many of our ancestors.

The only flaws are in some of the claims the editor makes for the diaries and the diarists. Mohr asserts, for example, that the Cormans were from "middling farm families and rural areas," and that this makes them "quite different from most of the Americans whose diaries have survived." Personal narratives, he writes, tend to come from "individuals in the upper echelons of society, and they were usually located near major metropolitan areas" (p. xi). This is not true of Civil War diaries. In fact, the clear majority of the published ones come from hundreds of soldiers much like Samuel — college educated, "middling" men from small towns and rural areas. The distinctive feature of the Cormany diaries is not their existence, then, but their coexistence in this form (we have many husband-and-wife letter collections, but not husband-and-wife diaries).

Readers of Civil War diaries should find this handsome and well-managed volume worthwhile, both for its love story and its war story.

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Mother Jones Speaks: Collected Writings and Speeches. Edited by Philip S. Foner. (New York: Monad Press, 1983. Pp. 724. Preface, acknowledgments, selected bibliography, index. $35.00, cloth; $14.95, paper.)

Philip S. Foner's latest endeavor is the collected works of the woman known as "Mother" to much of the American working class. Mary Harris Jones's remarkable career spanned the latter half of her
100-year life (1830-1930). A paid UMW/AFL organizer and a founding member of the IWW, she may have been the labor movement's most effective worker. As a member of the Socialist party, she spread the gospel of economic justice from coast to coast. While not a textbook feminist, she tirelessly fought for equal opportunity for all.

During her long career Mother Jones involved herself in a multiplicity of causes from New England mill children to the Mexican Revolution. Yet historians of the American labor movement as well as students of American radicalism have virtually ignored Jones’s essential role. Some women's historians have touched on Jones, but their works have been less than completely satisfactory. If it were not for some Appalachian historians, Mother Jones's star might have faded altogether. Foner considers the historiography of Mother Jones in his concise introduction. However, Foner does not delve deeply into the reasons for the lack of scholarship on Jones. Here a twofold speculation is in order. First, scholars assumed a paucity of materials. Fortunately, Foner conducted an extensive search of numerous archives, libraries, and other repositories. The sheer mass of primary material — over 600 pages — now mitigates against the argument of scarcity.

Second, there is the nature of Mother Jones's career and her stance in relation to the organizations and causes for which she struggled. Some of her contemporaries and many later historians consider her positions ambiguous and inconsistent. Perhaps the shoe belongs on the other foot. No one matches Jones’s contribution as an agitator for the organization of labor. Yet she constantly warred with the leadership of organized labor and frequently embarrassed powerful labor bureaucrats for being just that. A devoted socialist, the Socialists disillusioned her. She openly criticized the party leadership for being top-heavy with middle-class reformers at the expense of the masses. Despite Jones's interest in equality and her work for economic justice, she never became involved with the women's suffrage movement. Her criticism of women who did have the vote for not using it more wisely seems to have earned her the antipathy of at least a few feminist scholars. After reading this book one begins to wonder who was inconsistent — Jones, or her many critics. Mother Jones’s dedication and powerful idealism manifest themselves repeatedly throughout the book. The modern reader of Mother Jones Speaks might easily suspect that Jones’s criticism hits the contemporary researcher as hard as it did the movement leaders of the past.

Philip Foner's collection of Mother Jones's speeches, congressional testimony, newspaper interviews, articles, and letters holds both
promise and problems. The book covers the height of her career extensively. It contains precise statements of her principles and motivation — see especially page 491. It also illustrates the complexity of her character. Yet Foner's work leaves us with major gaps. No material antedates 1897 and even the many letters give only indirect insight into Mother Jones's personal life. Still Mother Jones Speaks is required reading for anyone who wishes to understand one of America's most remarkable women.

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Crisis Contained: The Department of Energy at Three Mile Island.

The accident at Three Mile Island in 1979 provided a demanding test of the mechanical and human safeguards associated with nuclear power. Various of these safeguards having failed, the Three Mile Island accident further tested the emergency and management capabilities of federal, state, and local government agencies. These organizational capabilities proved barely equal to the task of monitoring and responding to the accident within the reactor, while largely failing to provide consistent and reliable information to the media and the public at large.

Cantelon and Williams provide a detailed analysis of one federal agency's role in the tasks of monitoring and assessing the dangers of the Three Mile Island accident. The Department of Energy (DOE) shared control with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of most of the federal expertise concerning civilian nuclear power generation technology. This divided control stemmed from the reorganization of the Atomic Energy Commission in 1975. While the NRC was the more visible bureaucratic actor by far, the Department of Energy also played a key role at Three Mile Island. Indeed, a central goal of the authors, not coincidentally sponsored by the Department of Energy, is to argue for the importance of the DOE role at Three Mile Island.

The authors restrict themselves to the period of crisis (late