

New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Ohio. Modern scholars might carp that Stamp's book is history written in the Allan Nevins and Roy Nichols tradition, but even now there remains both a need and an audience for magisterial studies of past politics. Such good history should never go out of style.

GEORGE C. RABLE is professor of history and director of American studies at Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana. He is the author of *Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism* (1989) and is currently working on a study of Confederate political culture entitled "A Revolution Against Politics: The Confederate States of America."

Agriculture and National Development: Views on the Nineteenth Century. Edited by Lou Ferleger. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1990. Pp. xxiii, 363. Notes, bibliographies, figures, tables, appendix, index. Clothbound, \$39.95; paperbound, \$19.95.)

These essays survey various fields of agricultural historiography, discuss contested issues, and identify opportunities for further research. Five of them consider the Northeast and Midwest, another five address southern questions, and two deal with women and immigrants as "Special Topics" that cut across the book's regional division. Because the editor and several contributors hold university appointments in economics, and most of the other contributors are conversant with the methods and theories of social science, the essays' language is sometimes technical and occasionally mathematical. Their use of "in-text citation," a style of documentation characteristic of the social sciences and still (blessedly) rare in history, accentuates their special flavor.

Particularly rewarding essays include Jeremy Atack and Fred Bateman, "Yeoman Farming: Antebellum America's Other 'Peculiar Institution'" and Kathleen Neils Conzen, "Immigrants in Nineteenth-Century Agricultural History." Both will be especially helpful to students of the Midwest. Atack and Bateman ask whether the North's small, independent farmers were succeeding in 1860, conclude that they were, and then note that the farmers' commercial aspirations portended their eventual loss of independence. In the course of developing that argument, Atack and Bateman lucidly summarize a great deal of information, much of it drawn from their own research, about land distribution, the costs of beginning farms in various parts of the North, and the relatively high degree of economic equality characteristic of northern rural communities. Conzen's essay reports that studies of midwestern Germans and Scandinavians have challenged the once regnant "Turnerian" belief that ethnicity had little importance for American agricultural developments. She adds, however, that "synthesis remains a distant goal" (p. 309). Midwestern historians will also

find historiographical guidance in the essays by Hal Barron, R. Douglas Hurt, Dorothy Schweider, and Donald L. Winters. The last essay is particularly interesting for its explanation of why historians disagree so strenuously about whether midwestern farmers got a proper share of the country's wealth.

Readers interested in the burgeoning rural part of women's history will profit from Elizabeth Fox-Genovese's essay and from Hal Barron's consideration of some women's history topics that Fox-Genovese's economic focus excludes. And anyone who wants to study the present state of southern agricultural history, with its distinctively dense thicket of quantitative economic studies, will want to read this book's southern section, perhaps especially the concluding essay by Joseph P. Reidy. The section clarifies some complex and fiercely contested issues about slavery and its aftermath.

All of these essays have lengthy bibliographies. Taken with the book's statistical appendix, they make the volume a servicable reference tool that should be regularly consulted by everyone who wants to keep informed about agricultural history.

DONALD B. MARTI is associate professor of history, Indiana University at South Bend. His monograph on women of the Grange will appear in autumn, 1991.

The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health. By John Duffy. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990. Pp. 330. Notes, bibliography, index. \$32.50.)

In *The Sanitarians* John Duffy has produced a useful overview of the evolution of public health in America. Written in a straightforward narrative style, the volume covers the topic from colonial times to the present. Among the book's themes Duffy focuses on "the constant alternation between apathy and sharp reaction to periodic health crises" (p. 2) and "the clash between individual liberty and the public welfare" (p. 3). He gives greater emphasis to the former, building much of the chronology around key epidemics or significant medical breakthroughs.

Building on his own voluminous body of primary research, a wide range of secondary materials, contemporary periodicals, and some institutional reports, Duffy offers concise descriptions of the rise of important public health agencies, the professionalization of public health officials, and the extent of the problems they faced. Such a broad approach leaves little time for an in-depth analysis of any one topic or theme, but the book is a good first stop on the road to understanding the public health history of the country and a good place to start looking for additional pertinent bibliography.

Duffy claims that "the history of public health in America has not been one of constant and steady upward progress" (p. 315);