

dling these problems. Professor T. C. Reve, of the Cincinnati Law School, was toastmaster.

On Saturday morning Mr. Arthur W. Dunn, of Indianapolis, read a paper on "The Civic Value of Local History," which was discussed by former city auditor W. G. Culkins, of Cincinnati, and by Professor Henry R. Spencer, of Ohio State University. Miss May Lowe, of Circleville, Ohio, was to have read a paper on "The Present Status of Local History in the Schools," but in her absence an abstract of her paper was presented by the secretary. The paper will appear in the published proceedings.

A business session followed, at which the election of officers was held. Professor T. C. Greve, of Cincinnati, was elected president; vice-presidents, W. W. Longmore, of Kentucky; Vergil Lewis, of West Virginia; A. W. Dunn, of Indiana, and Professor Elson, of Ohio; secretary and treasurer, Professor I. J. Cox, of Cincinnati; recording secretary and curator, Professor A. B. Hulbert, of Marietta College. A committee was appointed to investigate and report on the teaching of local history in the schools, and also one to investigate the location and indexing of manuscripts.

The Saturday afternoon session was devoted to three papers: "Braddock's Road," by Henry W. Temple, of Washington and Jefferson College; "Zane's Trace," by C. L. Martzollf, of Ohio University; and "The Old Maysville Road," by Samuel M. Wilson, of Lexington, Kentucky. In Mr. Wilson's absence, his paper was read for him by H. B. Mackoy, of Covington, Kentucky.

The choice of a place of meeting for next year was left with the executive committee. Invitations were extended by the representatives of a number of cities, but the meeting will probably go to Frankfort, Kentucky.

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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

### TRUE INDIAN STORIES.

[By Jacob Piatt Dun. Illustrated. 320 pages. 1908. Sentinel Printing Company, Indianapolis. \$1.00.]

Mr. Dunn's latest work upon Indiana consists of two distinct parts which do not necessarily belong together, the first 252

pages being given to the narration of incidents in Indiana history in which Indians figure prominently, and the last 67 pages being an "Index Glossary of Indiana Indian Names." The stories include a life of Little Turtle, the murder of the Indian witches, the story of Tecumseh, the battle of Tippecanoe, William Wells, the defense of Fort Harrison, the Pigeon Roost massacre, the service of the Indian Logan in saving Ft. Wayne in 1812, the Walam Olum, the murder of the Indians at Pendleton, Frances Slocum and the removal of the last of the Potawatomies. These stories have appeared in the *Indianapolis News* during the last year or so and have been previously noticed in this magazine. They are interestingly told, and taken together give not only an impressive recital of individual exploits but illustrate admirably the leading traits of the Indians in their relations with the white men,—cunning and bravery in battle, childlike incompetence in the economic struggle for existence, blunt stoicism when face to face with suffering and death. Mr. Dunn could not have taken a better way to tell this chapter of our early history.

Much interest attaches also to the list of Indian names given at different times to places and rivers in Indiana. The retention of Indian names for our cities and rivers might well have been carried to a greater extent than it was. The restoration of such names, long displaced by English translations or substitutes, has occasionally been effected in Indiana, and is, in my opinion, to be heartily encouraged wherever possible. In some instances the phonetic advantage would perhaps be doubtful, as in the case of the name of Fall Creek sometimes applied by the Indians to Indianapolis, Chanktunoongi. But almost anything would be preferable to the lack of imagination shown by the recurrence of such names as Greenfield, Greenbrier, Greencastle, Greene Center, Greenhill, Green Mound, Greenoak, Green Spring, Greentown, Greenville, Greenwood (these times repeated in Indiana), or Brown, Brownsburg, Brownstown, Browns Valley, Brownsville. One of the best sounding Indian names in the State was Wah-pi-kah-me-ki which ought never to have been surrendered for its equivalent, White River.

The effort to get the original meaning of Indian names, however, is a different matter. It is at best an antiquarian and etymological task of great difficulty and of little value. In most cases the explanations given by surviving Indians of this and the two or three preceding generations seem to a layman, even when plausible, to be entitled to little credence. And the present form of Indian names that have been preserved and whose derivation is often known, is so corrupted that the Indians themselves would not recognize it. If any one among us, however, is able to trace these names in their devious windings, Mr. Dunn is the man, and since he has the patience to do it we would do well to take the utmost advantage of his results. C. B. COLEMAN.

## INDIANA IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

[By Oran Perry, Adjutant-General of Indiana. Illustrated. State Printer.]

Compilations are not usually attractive as literature. While this volume was not written to please, we venture the assertion that no single piece of historical work of more value has been done in the State for a long time. There is no attempt to pass judgment upon the facts, but merely to collect the material. The work is impartially done. Mr. Perry has gone carefully over the newspapers of the period,—the *Indiana Sentinel*, *Madison Courier*, *State Journal*, *Indiana Journal* and *New Albany Democrat*,—and culled incidents and narratives long since forgotten. County histories, State and Federal documents, have also been of great assistance to the compiler. The volume contains the portraits of Governor Whitcomb, Adjutant-General David Reynolds and the colonels of the five Indiana regiments which served in the war. The controversy about the retreat of the second regiment is brought forward with papers and reports.

There is nothing of greater value in this volume than the roster of the five regiments and the mounted riflemen. This roster is quite complete and the best ever published.

The work is a credit to Mr. Perry and provides a most useful reference work upon this portion of Indiana history.

This valuable compilation should have a good index. The extracts, reports and sketches are difficult to find without such an index. This is lacking. For instance: "A tug of war" is of