

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

## HISTORIC INDIANA.

[By Julia Henderson Levering (Mrs. Mortimer Levering). Illustrated. 538 pp. 8vo. 1909. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, \$3 net.]

Mrs. Levering's book is one of the most pretentious yet published upon Indiana history. It is, as the sub-title implies, not a continuous history of this State, but "chapters in the story of the Hoosier State, from a romantic period of foreign exploration and dominion, through pioneer days, stirring war times and periods of peaceful progress, to the present time." It is written with enthusiastic appreciation of the achievements of Indiana people and of the characteristics of Indiana stock.

Some of the more interesting chapters are: "How Spanish Rule Affected Indiana," "Picturesque Indiana," "An Indiana Type" (an account of Albert Henderson, of the family of the authoress), "Letters and Art in Indiana," "The State Civilization in Indiana, as Shown by Her Laws." There are in all twenty-two chapters, which deal each with some particular phase of Indiana's history or of natural features of the State.

Mrs. Levering, besides having the advantage of "life-long familiarity with the scenes and characters and movements of the events mentioned," has also consulted and used most of the literature on Indiana history. The technical historian would perhaps call for a larger use of strictly original matter, but the general reader, for whom the book is most intended, will gain as much interest and information as from any other book dealing with the subject.

The religious history of the State has for the most part been entirely neglected by authors of Indiana histories. It is interesting to have the subject at least briefly touched upon by Mrs. Levering, although her chapter upon "Early Churches in Indiana" by no means attempts to give a full account of even the early religious development of the State, and makes no attempt

to estimate the significant features of religious life in this part of the country.

Of the book as a whole it is not too much to say that it is the most important publication upon Indiana history since Mr. J. P. Dunn's "Indiana." It is written in a most interesting way, and is well proportioned. It contains a large fund of information, occasionally lacking perhaps in definiteness and references for verification, but undeniably more reliable than the average State or local history. The illustrations are largely reproductions of old prints, views of Indiana scenery and buildings. There are too few maps, and hardly as many pictures of distinguished personages as might have been used. But the book is distinctly well illustrated. In fact, the publishers have done their work well, as has the authoress, and the result is a book admirable in every respect.

A good index and a short bibliography, including many—though by no means all—of the most important works upon Indiana history or phases of it, add to the value of the work.

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN.