

INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

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EDITORIAL.

The approaching meeting of the American Historical Association and allied organizations from Tuesday, December 27, to Friday, December 30, in Indianapolis, has already been repeatedly referred to in this magazine. In this number is published, practically in full, the exceedingly interesting program. All of our readers should look over this program with reference to attending at least some of the meetings. No charge and no restrictions of any kind are placed upon the attendance of the general public. Every one interested in history is cordially invited to attend the sessions. The program speaks for itself, but especial attention may well be called to the session upon Western History, Tuesday evening; the session upon the Teaching of History and Civics, Wednesday morning; the conference of State and Local Historical Societies, Wednesday afternoon; the meeting Wednesday evening to be addressed by Governor Marshall and Professor Frederick J. Turner, president of the American Historical Association, and the two sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Secession.

The editor wishes again to urge the importance of membership in the Indiana Historical Society and the American Historical Association. Opportunity will be given at the registration desk at the Claypool Hotel to apply for membership in either or both of these organizations. While membership is in both cases elective, the governing bodies have been exceedingly liberal and broad in their policy, and no one interested in history and the extension of its study need hesitate to apply for membership. The annual membership fee of the American Historical Society is \$3, and of the Indiana Historical Society \$1. In both cases this entitles members to receive free of charge all the regular publications of the society.

The North Central History Teachers' Association, the Mississippi Valley and the Ohio Valley Historical Associations all meet in connection with the other organizations referred to, and will also be glad to make additions to their membership at this time.

The article upon the Institutional History of Lake County, published in this number, represents a kind of writing which it is the policy of the INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY to encourage. It is the product of work done during the college course at Earlham College under the direction of the Department of History. The magazine will be glad to publish from time to time articles of a similar character. There are twenty or more institutions of higher learning in the State where work of this sort ought to be done nearly every year. Too much of our teaching is devoted to spiritless and pointless traveling over the well-worn, hard-beaten tracks of general historical knowledge. We too often take our students to the granaries into which long-known historical facts have been garnered by other writers and ask them to shovel the piles of grain around from one place to another. We too seldom ask them to do the more vital and productive work of threshing out the wheat from the straw and the chaff, and themselves putting more grain into the granary. And so it is that much of our teaching of history is stale and profitless.

There is no intention in this to disparage the importance of careful and insistent drill in the well-established facts of historical significance. High school and college students alike ought to know more facts, dates and events, and to know them better than they do. But side by side with this historical drill, there ought to be given a taste at least of the methods and the joy of creative historical work. Students should be stimulated in the ambition to find out things for themselves. They should be taught to put books and authors to the test of accuracy by their own investigations. They should be led to the summit and the end of all true historical teaching, the desire to get at the truth of things by direct, original, first-hand work.

There is no field open to Indiana students and colleges for this sort of work that is comparable to the field of local history. The equipment of even the largest of our institutions renders difficult

first-class work along this line in European history. There is furthermore the difficulty of having to deal frequently with two or more foreign languages. But even a comparatively small library and meager equipment does not prevent really original work in much of American and especially local history. The student can frequently collect his own material, and this is one of the best parts of the work. We hope that more of our colleges and universities will go into this work. For the publication of the product of the work the pages of this magazine will always be open.

NOTES.

Plans are being made at Lafayette for the celebration in 1911 of the centennial of the battle of Tippecanoe. Professor Thomas F. Moran, of Purdue University, is chairman of the committee in charge.

At a special meeting of the Indiana Historical Society on Thursday, December 1, an appropriation of fifty dollars was made by the society toward defraying the expenses connected with the meeting of the American Historical Association and allied societies at Indianapolis. A resolution was also passed urging upon the Legislature the necessity of a new State Library and Museum building.

At an informal dinner given by the Commercial Club, of Indianapolis, to the members of the Indiana Historical Society on the evening of December 9, there was an attendance of thirty-four. Short talks were made by Dr. Wynn, of the Civic Improvement Commission of the Commercial Club, D. C. Brown, Harlow Lindley, James A. Woodburn, C. B. Coleman and others. A paper was read by J. P. Dunn which is printed in this number of the quarterly.

The organization of a local historical society is being agitated at Crawfordsville. Montgomery county should maintain an active organization. Those interested should address Professor Charles A. Tuttle, Wabash College.