

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

HISTORY OF INDIANAPOLIS.

[By Jacob Piatt Dunn. Illustrated. 2v., pp. 641, 616, numbered consecutively 1257. The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago. 1910. Sold by subscription only, \$25.]

This work consists, as most county and city histories do, of two distinct parts. Volume I is a history of Indianapolis, called in the subtitle *The Greater Indianapolis*, and volume II is a series of biographical sketches of the "leading citizens." The author, Mr. Dunn, has evidently had nothing whatever to do with volume II. His work as a historian of Indianapolis must be considered first, and independently of the biographical studies.

Mr. Dunn's work is called for by the absence of any recent history of Indianapolis. Twenty-five or more years has passed since the appearance of Sulgrove's *History of Indianapolis and Marion County*. In view of the fact, however, that relatively a good deal about the early history of the city had been already put into book form, Mr. Dunn would have done well to have given a larger part of his work to recent developments and less to early days. In some places, also, Mr. Dunn goes into lengthy details and occasionally gives space to trifles, but when 641 quarto pages are given to Indianapolis there is perhaps room for this. The author's genial personality occasionally comes to the surface in interesting but undignified phrases, as in connection with the famous Dudley letter of instructions for the election of 1888 that floaters be organized in blocks of five with a "trusted man with the necessary funds in charge." Mr. Dunn refers to a change of words in the newspaper publication of the letter as made by "some Eastern ass." These are comparatively minor criticisms, however, of a work which is evidently entitled to the highest praise.

So far as the reviewer has been able to verify statements, Mr. Dunn is accurate in his facts and fair in his inferences. There has been a vast amount of research and investigation in the making of the history. It would not have been a genuine product of its au-

thor if he had not gone fully into disputed questions. The mooted point as to whether George Pogue or John McCormick was the first settler is decided by Mr. Dunn in favor of McCormick in the best treatment of the subject yet published. That history is not yet an exact science, however, may be seen by the appearance in 1908 of a statement by the honored president of the Indiana Historical Society that Ignatius Brown had "marshalled such an array of evidence as seems to leave little room for further doubt" that George Pogue was the first settler (D. W. Howe, "Making a Capital in the Wilderness," page 315), and by Mr. Dunn's full discussion ending with the verdict, "the conclusion seems irresistible * * * that John McCormick was the first permanent settler" (History of Indianapolis, I, 45). It ought to be added, however, that Mr. Dunn accepts the tradition that George Pogue's house was the first house built, having been put up in 1819 by one Ute Perkins and abandoned by him but occupied afterwards by George Pogue.

The one omission of any consequence is the neglect to give any account of organized charity work in the city. The importance and significance of the Charity Organization Society entitles it to considerable notice, if not to a chapter by itself. More than offsetting this, is Mr. Dunn's good judgment in omitting much material which wearies the reviewer of most county histories, namely the early history of the North American continent as a whole and the early history of the State. Every local historian in this part of the country either has to take a running start before he jumps into his subject, or else assumes that his reader will doubt the existence of his county unless he ties it back to Columbus or even to the creation of the world. Mr. Dunn omits all that and starts in with the beginnings of Indianapolis.

Not the least merit of the first volume is the style of the narrative. It is clear, vivid and interesting—it makes good reading. There is always a lurking humor even in the account of the most commonplace subjects. What reader is not refreshed in reading about an early insurance company by coming without warning upon this, "It ran along until Childs became infatuated with a young woman and eloped to Oregon, leaving a wife and a Sunday-school, of which he was superintendent, to mourn his loss" (volume I, p. 363). Every citizen of Indianapolis, old or new, will find that he

will get not only a great deal of valuable information about his city, but a great deal of entertainment in running over the pages of the History of Greater Indianapolis.

As to the advertising part of the work, the series of autobiographical sketches which comprise volume II, the least said the better. What can be said of publishers who insert a full-page plate of "Pop" June and give us no likeness of Senator Beveridge, Governor Marshall and Vice-President Fairbanks; whose only account of President Harrison is a passing reference under the title of Colonel Russell B. Harrison; who omit entirely such men of the past as George P. Julian and such men of this generation as Hugh H. Hanna—what but that they are out to make as much money as possible out of the vanity of our "prominent citizens." It is surprising how many prominent citizens we have. The reviewer is compelled to confess that, after a residence of some years in Indianapolis, he was not aware that the city possessed such a stock of patriotic soldiers, illustrious doctors, loyal and devoted citizens, remarkable business men, distinguished educators, men who have gained impregnable holds upon popular confidence and esteem, judges whose courses on the bench have been marked by great discrimination, fidelity and judicial acumen so that their official records stand to their perpetual credit, sons who have added laurels to the honored names of fathers, as here give an account of themselves.

PAST AND PRESENT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY.

[By General R. P. De Hart. Illustrated. 2v. B. F. Bowen & Co., Indianapolis. 1909.]

Judge De Hart is well qualified to be the historian of Tippecanoe county. His work is well done. It contains excellent chapters upon the Indian occupancy and the battle of Tippecanoe (though overloaded with the speeches at the dedication of the Battleground monument), the city of Lafayette, Purdue University, and various phases of local development. Many of the chapters were written by collaborators of the author, S. Vater, Brainerd Hooker, Alva O. Reser, R. F. Hight, Dr. S. S. Washburn. There is not a great amount of new information in the work, but it is a convenient gathering together of a large mass of information concerning Tippecanoe