REVIEWS AND NOTES

The story of the American West is being told. That energy of the West which has entered the current of national development is becoming known. The recognition of the part played by the Misissippi valley in the development of the United States is the most distinctive characteristic of present-day research in the field of American history. This recognition has been won almost solely by the efforts of western historians. The Mississippi Valley Historical Association was organized in 1907 in order that the study of the West might he more systematically promoted and correlated. The success of that organization has justified the development that is announced in a circular, the publication of a quarterly devoted to the study of the history of the valley, the first number of which will appear on June 1, 1914.

The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Civil War. By William Warren Sweet, Ph.D., Professor of History, DePauw University. (Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati.) pp. 228, 1913.

The Methodist church was extremely active during the period immediately preceding the Civil War. It was among the first to grapple with the slavery question. The question would not yield to any attempt at solution, so the church divided into a Methodist Church South and a Methodist Church North. The Northern church numbered about 1,000,000 members, one tenth of whom were in Indiana, this State ranking fourth in the list.

The Methodists of the North were aggressive anti-slavery advocates, pressing the fight from Baltimore to Kansas. Editors of Methodist papers who did not keep well out on the firing line were invariably replaced by more outspoken men.

As a consequence of this they also found themselves close to the danger line when the crash of war came. A large number of the members enlisted and likewise a large number of Methodist preachers found appointments as chaplains in the regiments where their passionate appeal had great influence in keeping up the courage of the troops. In like manner the Methodist bishops could always be