

REVIEWS AND NOTES.

History of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Orleans, Indiana, by JOHN POUCHER, D. D., Orleans, Ind., pp. 18, 1914.

This is an attempt to perpetuate a bit of local history. There is a general movement throughout the West to perpetuate the history of individual churches and schools. At least one Western State has undertaken a religious historical survey in which it is planned to compile a complete history of every church in the State. Dr. Poucher has divided his subject into three parts. In the first he gives a brief history of the town of Orleans from its founding in 1815 by William McFarland and Samuel Lewis down to the present. The main portion of the pamphlet is devoted to the History of the Church. Dr. Poucher here encounters a trouble that will often be met by the serious historian in our State. The earliest records are lost. Who the first preacher was, or what denomination he represented will perhaps never be known again. Orleans was on an early line of travel and doubtless was visited before Indiana was a State. The celebrated Presbyterian preacher W. W. Martin preached in the neighborhood in 1816. Lorenzo Dow the eccentric Methodist preacher of that early day, often visited Orleans. Dr. Poucher has been able to find a record of the Methodist preachers beginning about 1822. There is an unbroken succession from that time on to the present. In 1826 the little Methodist congregation built a 30x40 log church. The long list of preachers contains many names well-known in Indiana History. The third part of the pamphlet is devoted to the members whom the auditor calls the "Personals workers."

Drainage and Reclamation of the Swamps and Overflowing Lands, by CHARLES KETTLEBOROUGH, Indiana Bureau of Legislative Information Bulletin, No. 2, Indianapolis, pp. 68, 1914.

This is a historical discussion of the drainage question in Indiana. The purpose of the *Bulletin* is to awaken the people of the State and especially the General Assembly to the fact that the State is losing millions of dollars every year through lack of proper drainage. The State has already reclaimed 2,500,000 acres valued at \$68,000,000 but it is believed that a scientific drainage system would do much more. The sanitary side of the question is also emphasized.

A revival of interest in drainage sprang up ten or fifteen years

ago simultaneously with the great rise in land values. A part of this drainage impulse came also from the fact that the arable free public lands in the west had all been occupied.

A table showing the undrained lands in the various States gives Indiana 625,000 acres of such land. The total for the United States is given as 79,000,000, acres, one fourth of which is in Florida. The main reasons for drainage are given as follows: to improve the roads, to reclaim the land, and to improve health.

Systematic drainage did not begin till about 1880 when the rising price of land began to justify the use of costly machinery. The writer estimates that 3,500,000 acres of land in Indiana were originally swampy. Of this amount about 1,500,000 acres have been fairly well drained, while at least one million acres can hardly be said to be drained at all.

It is an interesting little pamphlet and suggests a line of work which the State government can do with great profit to the citizens. In closing, the author sums up the work now being done in other States.

Seven suggestions are made to the General Assembly, should it undertake legislation along this line. (1) A new systematic drainage law. (2) A State engineer. (3) Flood control and river improvement. (4) The public health. (5) Co-operation with experts. (6) Public ownership of dredging machinery. (7) Preservation of water power.

The Unknown God and Other Orthodox Essays is the title of a small volume of miscellaneous essays by Jacob Piatt Dunn. The first essay is a discussion of the meaning of the dedication, Paul found on the Athenian altar "To the Unknown God." Mr. Dunn comes to the conclusion that the expression refers to the Greek "Supreme First Cause."

The second essay is entitled "The First Heresies." The author is not disposed to let his religion draw him into any of the conflicts of science and philosophy. These latter he says are making the same bluffs to day as in the time of the apostles; but "The Simple faith is greater than the wisdom of men."

Perhaps the most interesting of these short essays is one entitled "The Passing of Darwinism." Here, as in all the rest, the author's mind takes the path of least resistance. He rejects Darwinism in toto. But he leaves some consolation, for he admits that "There are thousands of fairly intelligent people who still accept the Darwinian theories as established facts."