

REVIEWS AND NOTES

Travel and Description, 1765-1865; Vol. II, Bibliographical Series, Vol. IX, Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, by SOLON JUSTUS BUCK, University of Illinois. Published by the Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield. pp. 514, 1914.

Dr. Buck has gathered a list of county histories, atlases, biographical collections and a list of Territorial and State laws, as well as a descriptive list of such books of travel and description as deal with Illinois and its history under the head of "Travel and Description." The author has 660 titles. The description of the books are brief, averaging about four to the page. The full titles are given together with a very brief note indicating the nature of the volume, the number of pages, the date and place of first publication and the number and date of later editions. By a system of key letters a number of libraries are also indicated where the books may be found. The titles are arranged in chronological order, beginning with 1765. An excellent index disarms any criticism of this arrangement by those who might prefer an alphabetical arrangement. The question of typography evidently was more troublesome and has not been so well handled.

In the field of county histories there are 463 entries. Here the arrangement is chronologically by counties. It is worth noting that no single library has as many as half the complete list. In the introduction to this section, the author has made some observations worth quoting. In discussing the incentive to such work he says, p. 255:

The great mass of county histories produced in the west during the last forty years has been the work of business enterprises pure and simple—an enterprise which finds its basis in human vanity; in the desire of the average middle-class American to see his name in print and to be able to read in a book glowing accounts of himself, his family, and his neighbors, their virtues, and their achievements.

Concerning their historical value he says, p. 257:

To the student with the critical ability, who knows what to accept and what to reject, they have a very considerable value. The probability of error is certainly no greater than in the Medieval Chronicles, and

much of the information which can be gleaned from them and which might otherwise escape the investigator can be verified from the more original sources to which they point the way.

Again on page 257 he says:

No historical library is doing its full duty which fails to collect and preserve, so far as possible, all books of this sort relating to parts of the territory which it attempts to cover. As time goes on and the people and conditions with which these books deal fade away into the remote past and as the books themselves become scarce and difficult to procure, the value of such a collection will be more and more apparent.

The last section is devoted to the Territorial and State laws. This part of the bibliography has no special interest to Indiana readers after 1808, when the Illinois Territory was set off from Indiana.

The volume is very useful to Indianians since nearly all travelers who did Illinois also included Indiana in their itineraries.

Daniel Webster, by FREDERICK AUSTIN OGG, Ph. D., Associate Professor of History in Simmons College, Boston, and Author of *Social Progress in Contemporary Europe*, *The Government of Europe*, Etc. Philadelphia, George W. Jacobs & Company, pp. 433, 1914.

DANIEL WEBSTER was chosen by Dr. Oberholtzer, editor of the series called "The American Crisis Biographies" as the subject for the nineteenth volume of the series. Professor Van Tyne, of Michigan University, had intended to write the volume but was compelled to give it up. The design of the volume is to give a new, brief, popular version of the story of Webster's life. Dr. Ogg has used only the easily accessible materials contained in the *Letters of Daniel Webster* published in 1902, and the eighteen volume edition of *Webster's Writings and Speeches*. There is no pretense of any search for new material, neither is there any new interpretations offered. As a plain, straightforward chronological story it is very well done. It is an interesting story all the way from the humble beginning in the New Hampshire hills to the equally simple funeral at Marshfield. The style of the author, though at times wordy, is usually plain and dignified. There is no attempt at rhetorical display, though the subject is one which easily lends itself to that kind of writing. A list of the chief events in his life chronologically arranged takes the place of an introduction. The book is neatly