

it ought to be and do and too few know what it is and is doing. The department of education is right in recommending the *Year Book* as the best school text for the study of civics.

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#### INDIANA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

When Dr. John W. Oliver resigned as secretary of the Indiana Historical Commission Prof. Harlow Lindley of Earlham, former state archivist, was selected to take his place. Besides carrying on the work already begun by Dr. Oliver, Mr. Lindley is making an effort to organize the different historical workers and agencies of the state to secure better co-operation. It is hoped to secure greater permanent results in proportion to the outlay in work and money. Beginning with November, the Commission will publish the *Indiana History Bulletin* in order to keep those interested posted in what the Commission is doing. Heretofore, the Commission has published occasional bulletins, containing announcements, programs, proceedings and papers. There is grave danger in too many kindred, disconnected publications. From the standpoint of the outstate historian this duplication of titles becomes confusing. Students of history regret, for instance, that the old *Pioneer and Historical Collections* of Michigan has been discontinued. The same is true with the publications in Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina and Iowa.

The Indiana Historical Commission has published during the past year four volumes all creditable to the state and the Commission. If this work can be kept up we will in time have a respectable historical literature of the state.

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Indiana Historical Collections XI, Biographical Series I, *George W. Julian*, by Grace Julian Clarke. Indianapolis, 1923, pp. 456.

As a personal history of an interesting character this is a pleasing and valuable narrative. The style is plain and the story moves on at a uniform gait. There is little philosophizing, explanation or defense. It could hardly be expected that hostile criticism would be indulged in by the author. The

author has at her command ample material; how completely or how well she has used it cannot be ascertained. Mr. Julian kept a diary during a large part of his life. The small part of it published is intensely interesting and historically of high value.

Only a few men have passed through and participated in more significant social and political struggles than Mr. Julian. He successively affiliated with the Whig, Free Soil, Democratic, Know-Nothing, Republican, Liberal Republican, Democratic and Sound Money parties. To say he belonged to any of these parties would hardly be the truth. His Gallic temper never permitted complete fellowship in any organization. He seems to have had a similar experience religiously. He entertained all the movements which agitated the church during his life, without embracing either. His virile mind found faults and objections to all organizations and his imperious will made it impossible fully to recognize any authority. He seems to have taken active side on all public questions without ever submitting to the discipline necessary for accomplishment. His championships often led him into strange company as when he supported Van Buren in 1848, Tilden in 1876, Cleveland in 1884 and virtually McKinley in 1896. A man of less earnestness would have enjoyed the humor of these situations. As a subject of study in political conduct his life is most suggestive. Could he have accomplished more by conforming to party discipline and working in harness, by remaining loyally with the Whig and Republican parties, is a question which of course cannot be determined. Was the Abolition agitation a bankruptcy of statesmanship or was it wise, are questions involved. Did these vitriolic agitators precipitate a bloody civil war from what with more patient statesmanship would have passed by as a peaceful revolution are questions which history will be required to give an opinion on later. Whether he helped the statesmanship of Lincoln or hindered it. Whatever the answer to these, Mr. Julian stands out as a bold uncompromising knight errant. He began the battle before he was of age and died after a 60 year war, pen in hand. His enemies were always bad men, rebels, assassins, cutthroats, sinners of all grades and conditions. In

this respect he was utterly unlike Webster, Clay, Washington or Lincoln, and more resembled the frontier preacher. While a volume of his papers including his diary would perhaps be more valuable, the present small volume is a welcome addition to our too scant political literature.

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Vol. III, Indiana World War Records, *A Sergeant's Diary in the World War*, by ELMER FRANK STRAUB. Published by Indiana Historical Commission, Indianapolis, 1923. Price \$1.50.

Sergeant Straub was an enlisted man in the 150th Field artillery, Forty-second or Rainbow division. He was a member of the commander's detail. He was usually on scout detail and his special work was to sketch the sector occupied by the battery and lay the guns. The battery was mobilized at Fort Benjamin Harrison July, 1917, and arrived in France October 31 following. It was placed on the front at Chateau Thierry July 22, 1918, and supported the battle line all the way through Vaux Woods, Robecourt, Seicheprey, Troyon, Montfaucon Cierges and Harricourt.

As a close-up picture of the Argonne battle it is unexcelled. The artillery scouts were just back of the front line and while they did not see the first line struggle they were continually in the wreckage of the battle. Villages were still burning, men, dead, wounded or dying, were in sight at all times. This is a day-to-day account and holds ones attention like an oral tale. The endless detail of army life, the hardships of the front, the rustling for food and supplies are told in a way never even hinted in the histories.

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Indiana Historical Society Publication, Vol. VII, No. 10, *Abraham Lincoln—Lawyer*, by Charles W. Moores, Indianapolis. The Bobbs-Merrill Company. Reprinted from the proceedings of the American Bar Association, 1910, and enlarged, pp. 52.

Mr. Moores has tried to present a particular view of certain phases of Lincoln's life stressing especially his life as