

## Comment and News

The history of almost any middle western college is well worth the writing. Several histories portraying the struggles, the near-failures, the triumphs, the changes, and the growth of certain institutions of higher learning have appeared in recent years. A number of others should follow. Many sectarian and other non-State colleges that were founded were unable to survive the vicissitudes of the times. Some of the survivals and revivals were little short of miraculous. After being saved time and again by heroic efforts, there were cases when life continued to hang only by a thread. There are those that still lead a hand to mouth existence, with meagre endowments, poor equipment, and insufficient funds with which to employ faculties.

The histories that have been written of colleges that are still going concerns have been prepared by authors who are friends of the schools dealt with. Such writers are to be commended and, as already indicated, it is to be hoped that others will follow their examples. There is a need in addition for sketches of colleges, living, dead, and near-dead from the pens of outsiders, who, though just and fair, can be entirely disinterested. These must come before we shall have any true history of college education in the Middle West.

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Readers of this *Magazine* who are of that extremely small group of American citizens who have had the inclination to become acquainted with the larger works of American history, such as those by McMaster, Rhodes, Channing, and Oberholzer, will be much interested in a series of articles appearing in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. A critical evaluation of Rhodes as a writer of history was published in the March number of the quarterly mentioned, and a similar treatment of McMaster may be found in the June number recently issued. Further articles of the same nature are to come in future issues. These valuable papers are the results of studies undertaken by graduate students in the *seminar* courses of Professor Jernegan of the University of Chicago.

For the year 1929, the Georgia Historical Society is offering a prize of one hundred dollars to the person submitting the best article on some subject connected with the history of Georgia. The competition is open to anyone, and the award will be announced in the March, 1930, number of the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*. The announcement includes the statement: "The Society reserves the right to publish in its magazine any article submitted."

The plan here adopted to insure the writing of not merely one but several papers pertaining to the history of Georgia, is of interest to the *Editor* of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. He hopes that some generous member of the Indiana Historical Society will make it possible to announce a similar competition in this State soon. He should like to announce an offer of fifty dollars for the best article on some phase of Indiana history, with a second fifty dollars to be distributed among five of those who, though they do not win first place in the contest, submit papers suitable for publication.

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This *Magazine*, which is published quarterly by the Department of History of Indiana University in coöperation with the Indiana Historical Society, goes to each member of the Society for the nominal sum of one dollar per year—the price of a fair dinner. It seemed to the new and unsophisticated *Editor* that the members of the Historical Society would be very willing to increase the annual dues by a reasonable amount, in order that the *Magazine* might be granted a more adequate subsidy from the Society—perhaps two dollars per member; or if not, at least one dollar and fifty cents each. When considering such a suggestion, the Executive Committee of the Society at a meeting held early in April went on record as opposed to any modification of the present arrangement. The Committee passed a motion to the effect that, "the editor of the *Indiana Magazine of History* be advised that it is the sense of the Society that its dues should in no event be increased and in no event can an appropriation of more than one dollar be made for the maintenance of the *Magazine*." The *Editor* has been in such a daze ever since, in regard to this matter, that he has performed his editorial duties with more than his usual docility and cheerfulness. He hopes in time to learn to "make bricks without straw."

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association which was held at Vincennes, April 25-27, was in every way profitable and enjoyable. The papers read at the several meetings were of a high order, the attendance was good, the weather was fine, and the historic city on the Wabash did herself proud in caring for her guests. The meeting will be long remembered by those fortunate enough to have been present, as one of the best in a long line of excellent meetings.

Next year the members of the Association will gather at Chattanooga, a center of great historic interest. Located at the northern extremity of Lookout Mountain on the Tennessee at Moccasin Bend, the city selected by the Association is a splendid place for the annual meeting. In an important and beautiful part of the Mississippi Valley, Chattanooga is easily accessible from every direction by railways and automobile roads.

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A few suggestions regarding contributions that may be submitted to the Magazine in the future, may be welcomed. As a rule papers written in good English with adequate references to the sources of information, can be prepared for the printer with little labor. Such changes as may be necessary are made merely for the sake of maintaining a reasonable degree of uniformity in regard to footnotes and other matters of form. Papers written hastily with no attempt to furnish references to materials used, require much work before they can be turned over to the printer. Very few writers are so expert that they can afford to submit a first draft without any revision whatever. It is usually much better to revise the original copy carefully one or more times, and then have a final copy prepared for submission. There is no iron-clad rule, but it is customary to avoid the first person when writing historical articles, except in papers pertaining to the family of the writer or to intimate personal matter such as holds a place in reminiscences or autobiography. In all other historical writing, it is better to present the narrative in the third person, unless there is some very specific reason for variation. Unusual care should be used in the spelling of names of persons and places, since it is frequently difficult for anyone other than the author of a paper to correct such errors even when suspected.

The present, or June issue, of the *Magazine* will reach subscribers some days behind schedule, but an effort will be made to bring out the September and December issues on time.

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Reprints of articles published in the *Magazine* may be had by any contributor who may desire them. Application should be made as soon as the paper has been accepted for publication. Dr. R. C. Buley, the Business Manager, will furnish prices on request, and place orders for such a number of copies of any reprint as may be wanted.

## Wanted

We are sure that some of our readers can aid us to obtain some of the desired matter listed below. The Library of Indiana University and other libraries in different parts of the country are in need of copies of the publications mentioned in order to complete files. For the older and rarer numbers, prices above the regular rates will be paid. Persons possessing any of the desired magazines or other matter, will confer a great favor by writing to Dr. R. C. Buley, Business Manager of the *Indiana Magazine of History*.

*The Indianian*. This magazine was published at Indianapolis from 1898 to 1906, six volumes in all. Wanted, complete file. Partial sets will be considered.

*Indiana, Past and Present*. This little, temporary periodical was published during 1914. Wanted, a complete file, and also an extra copy of Number 1.

*Indiana Magazine of History*. Wanted issues of this quarterly for the years 1905-1912, inclusive. From one to two dollars per copy will be paid for separate number of these years. Wanted also, the following issues of later years: March and December, 1926; double-number, June-September, 1925; December, 1921; March, 1922.