

Comment and News

In many respects to be an editor, even of a state historical magazine which is issued quarterly, is interesting. This is not due to the fact that the readers write frequent letters praising or blaming the editor, for such is not the case. Very seldom does any subscriber of the *Indiana Magazine of History* write anything to the editor in the way of comment, favorable or unfavorable, on the content of any issue. There is little evidence that the *Magazine* is read by more than a dozen citizens of Indiana, other than the fact that about eleven hundred pay the annual dues to the Indiana Historical Society. Nevertheless, it means something to edit the quarterly. During every week in the year, there is always editorial work to be done whenever it is possible to extricate oneself from other duties. Best of all, since issues are due in March, June, September and December, these months follow each other in rapid succession, while all other months are crowded from the calendar. If anyone desires to know what it means to have the side-show become the main circus, let him undertake to edit a quarterly magazine as a collateral activity.

The letters of Dr. E. W. H. Beck which are published in this number contain many interesting facts and opinions. The point of view of a surgeon was somewhat different from that of other men in the service, whether privates or officers. The letters written in the period between the battles of Manassas and Antietam and during the days immediately following the latter battle are especially worth reading. The letters written during the Wilderness Campaign in 1864, describing the raid into the Virginia country far to the southeast of the area where Grant was hammering Lee's army, are unusually impressive. This raid was to create a diversion in Lee's rear, and was to the Hoosier surgeon who reported it to his wife, a cruel, destructive and sickening type of warfare.

It has often occurred to the editor that the many persons interested in varying phases of Indiana history could become more helpful to each other. Frequently they could exchange

knowledge of events and characters of history, or better, render mutual service in regard to the whereabouts of source material. The Indiana State Library, the Indiana Historical Bureau and the Indiana University Library are always ready to act as clearing houses in such instances. Readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History* may also feel free to send inquiries to the editor. Though there is no desire to establish a regular question and answer department, queries will be inserted, whenever those who desire information see fit to present them, in the hope that reliable answers may be obtained.

For some time the editor has had a great desire to learn the names of the father and mother of Edward Allen Hanegan who was United States Senator from Indiana from 1843 to 1849. It seems that the birthplace of this brilliant but unfortunate man was in Hamilton County, Ohio. To the present, it has not been possible to learn the names of his parents either from those who have studied his career or from living descendants. It is hoped that some one who may chance to see this note will be able to supply the missing data.

J. Harley Nichols who contributed the article on "Kin Hubbard" which appeared in our March issue has been assistant professor of history at the Ball Teachers College, Muncie, for several years. Dr. James A. Woodburn of Ann Arbor, professor emeritus of American history at Indiana University whose address, "Indiana and Her History", was also printed in the March number, was for many years President of the Indiana Historical Society. He was made President Emeritus of that organization in December, 1930. Mr. Linneus N. Hines, another contributor, is President of the Indiana State Teachers College. In this position he is one of the ex-officio members of the State Board of Education, of which he was also an ex-officio member when State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mrs. Rose Shultheis is an active member of D.A.R., Vincennes, which chapter is responsible for the rescue of the Harrison House and its careful preservation in recent years. Miss Annie Lee Samuel, who compiled the data relative to the Graham, Froman and Harrison families is a genealogist who lives at Frankfort, Kentucky. Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, Secretary of the Indiana Historical

Society and head of the Indiana Historical Bureau, conducts a department devoted to the Historical Society in each issue of the *Magazine*. Those who contributed reviews to the March issue were: Dr. John Donald Barnhart, associate professor of history, West Virginia University; Dr. Fred E. Brengle, assistant professor of history, Indiana State Teachers College; Prof. Fred J. Breese, formerly professor of Geography at the Ball Teachers College, now on the staff of the North Side High School, Fort Wayne, and lecturer in Geography, Indiana University Extension Division; Mr. Otto M. Knoblock, a business man of South Bend, long a special student of La Salle and New France; Mr. Powell Moore, formerly an instructor in history at Bethel College, Russellville, Kentucky, and now a tutor in history at Indiana University.

Contributors to this, the June number of our *Magazine*, include: Mr. Hilton U. Brown, chairman of the Board of Directors of the *Indianapolis News*; Prof. Frank Smith Bogardus, late Dean of Indiana State Teachers College; Rev. Louis A. Warren, Lincoln historian, Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne; Mrs. Grace Julian Clarke, writer for various newspapers, frequent contributor to this *Magazine*, and daughter of George W. Julian; Miss Julia LeClerc Knox, formerly of Vevay, now head of the Latin department in Crawfordsville high school. Dr. Elbert A. Kincaid, professor of Economics at the University of Virginia, writes a review for this issue. Other reviews are contributed by Dr. Christopher B. Coleman and the editor.