

her "Introduction", not only because "the names of hundreds of pioneers otherwise forgotten" are preserved, but because a basis is provided "for studies in population movements in the United States". Since there is no more fascinating phase of American history than the movement of population, affecting old areas as well as new and tremendously influencing the trends and currents of the nation's development, the verdict of historical students in regard to the two volumes will certainly be highly favorable.

William O. Lynch.

Dr. James A. Woodburn, Emeritus Professor of History at Indiana University and President Emeritus of the Indiana Historical Society is writing a comprehensive history of Indiana University. Graduated from the University in 1876 and for many years a Professor of History at the institution, Doctor Woodburn is unusually well qualified for the task on which he has been laboring for some time. The work will undoubtedly be a valuable one when published.

The South Dakota Historical Society recently published the first issue of Volume I of the *South Dakota Historical Review*. This initial number (October, 1935) of a new historical quarterly, which it is hoped will have a long and useful life, contains a single article, "James (Scotty) Philip, 1858-1911", written by a nephew, George Philip, United States District Attorney for South Dakota. The article carries several excellent illustrations, one being an unusually fine picture in colors of a herd of "Scottish Highland Cattle" with mountains in the background.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor of *Indiana Magazine of History*:

Referring to your comments in the September, 1935, issue of *Indiana Magazine of History* (pp. 256-258) concerning my article "Wet Lands and the Hoosier Stereotype" (*Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, June, 1935), I should like to offer one or two points by way of explanation. The term "stereotype" is used in the article in the sense proposed by Mr. Walter Lippmann—a fixed mental pattern or image which may or may not be wholly in accord with the facts which it is supposed to represent. (This definition is based on Part III of *Public Opinion*, New York, 1922.) As a prevailing popular impression it may abuse the minds which entertain it and it may represent a gross mis-

understanding and warping of actual facts and conditions. Thus the existence of a stereotype—a thing of the mind—is one matter: its justice is another.

My article, I believe, carries data which definitely indicate the existence of a Hoosier stereotype in the minds of peoples to the eastward of Indiana, at least during the generation preceding the Civil War. That is all I attempt to demonstrate by this part of the argument. That the stereotype did not reliably represent the facts my paper suggests in more than one place and in more than one way. Indeed, the fact that the state was holding its place reasonably well as to population, which is the principal assertion of your criticism, only causes us to wonder why Indiana should have borne the reputation it did and to wonder at the sense of handicap under which representative citizens of the state seemed to live. In brief, I believe there are in the history of Indiana, as well as of other places and regions, important, if intangible, factors which census and representation figures do not disclose. Although you declare that I have produced “no evidence of value” concerning a “Hoosier Stereotype” I am content to leave decision on the point to the generality of my readers.

If I may make another point without being charged with the offense of over-neatness it would be this: in the latter part of my paper where I consider the respects in which Indiana’s society still reflects the conditions of the state’s settlement, I intend it as a discussion of the effects of geographical factors upon the state’s society without any particular reference to stereotypes. It may be merely naïve to add that the writer was a little surprised at the path over which his studies led him and that he had no intention of defaming his native state. Yet there appeared to him a unity of cause behind the several parts of his argument which justified setting them forth in the way he did.

Cordially,

Richard L. Power

St. Lawrence University,
29 November, 1935.

Space is gladly given to the above letter. Before passing judgment on the matter at issue, readers should study the paper by Professor Power, “Wet Lands and the Hoosier Stereotype”, which appeared in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* of June, 1935. They should then read my review of the article in the September issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History* (256-258) and also my comment pertaining to Indiana in the eighteen-fifties in the June issue (164-165).—*Editor*.