

## Reviews and Notices

*The Older Middle West, 1840-1880.* By Henry Clyde Hubbart.  
D. Appleton-Century Company, New York, 1936.  
Pp. ix, 305, maps, \$3.50.

This valuable volume was "published from a fund contributed to the American Historical Association by the Carnegie Corporation of New York." It represents a new venture—an attempt to present and interpret the post-frontier period of the Old Northwest. The descriptive sub-title indicates that the author wished to include, in the history of the region and era selected, the "social, economic, and political life and sectional tendencies before, during, and after the Civil War." This he has done in an admirable effort, but he has made other phases of the life portrayed do service mainly as the background of party history. Four of the fifteen chapters deal with social development, culture, and business conditions, but the remaining chapters are primarily political.

The headings of the sections, into which the chapters are divided, reveal correctly the trend of the author's thought in regard to party activities and leaders. "The Progressive Western Democracy, 1845-1848"; "Popular Sovereignty Becomes Popular"; "Lincoln and Douglas Not Far Apart in the Great Debate"; "The Lower South Breaks from the Douglas West"; "The Lakes and the East Reluctantly Accept Lincoln"; "The Free West Repudiates Lincoln, 1862"; "The Western Peace Bolt, 1864"; "The Revival of the Democratic Party in the West, 1867-1872"—these titles, selected from the headings of sections scattered through the book, will help readers of this review, who may be interested, to know what to expect from a study of Professor Hubbart's volume. There are numerous fresh points of view in regard to leaders, events and movements, some of which are original and some of which have been adopted by the author, that lend interest to his treatment. He has had no tendency to accept stereotyped interpretations without at least a new and critical examination.

It seems unfortunate that the title of the volume should indicate that it covers the period from "1840 to 1880". A more fitting range would be 1840 to 1870, or certainly not a longer period than from 1840 to 1875. When mentioning the Oregon settlement, the statement is made that President Polk and Senator Benton, reversing themselves, took up Calhoun's

idea, and compromised (p. 18). It is true that Calhoun was strongly against war with Great Britain over Oregon, but was he for division of the Oregon Country? In connection with the story of the nomination of Horatio Seymour of New York by the Democratic National Convention in 1868, there follows the erroneous statement that "Indiana was rewarded and the West supposedly appeased by the nomination of Hendricks as the vice-presidential Candidate" (p. 247). "The Old North-West in the Post-Frontier Period" would seem to fit the book better than to include the term "Middle West" in the title, but the author makes clear to what country he means his title to apply.

It remains to say that Professor Hubbart has written an excellent book which is based on extensive research and which represents an open-minded approach to the problems of the times. All who are interested in Indiana history will find a great deal of important matter in this study that bears directly on the state's development in the period covered. The remainder of the contents of the volume apply to the geographic section of which Indiana is a part, and cannot be other than attractive to citizens of the Hoosier commonwealth.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

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*Indiana Asbury-DePauw University, 1837-1937.* By William Warren Sweet. The Abingdon Press, New York. Pp. 298, illustrated.

It would have been difficult to find another person as well fitted to write a centennial history of DePauw University as Dr. Sweet of the University of Chicago. Vitally interested in DePauw, sometime professor of history in that institution, a writer of history, he seems to have been just the man to prepare the work. The resulting volume is an adequate testimonial that he measured up to the task that he undertook.

The history of any college that has lived a hundred years should be interesting and colorful. Unfortunately too many such histories consist of a series of biographical sketches of the presidents with a modest amount of other matter thrown in for padding. Dr. Sweet has dealt adequately with the strong men who guided the destiny of DePauw through one hundred years, but he has not slighted other features of college life. Financial problems, the work and influence of fac-