

Illinois on the Eve of the Seven Years' War, 1747-1755.
Edited by Theodore Calvin Pease and Ernestine Jennison.
Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, 1940. Pp.
Lii, 977.

This considerable volume, which is the third of the French Series and Volume XXIX of the *Collections* of the Illinois State Historical Library, represents extremely careful work on the part of the editors. There is a long (forty-one pages) "Introduction" by the editors which is remarkably well written and which shows a keen knowledge of the conditions in the Illinois country of the period just preceding the Seven Years' War. The documents, which belong to the years from the close of the War of the Austrian Succession to 1755, in which year, the military drama which was to serve as a curtain-raiser to the Seven Years' War occurred, are extremely valuable sources for the student of history who wishes to understand the struggle for supremacy in North America between the French and the British.

Though most of the documents are French letters (all of which are accompanied by translations), there are a few English documents. The manuscripts, or photostat copies of originals, were mainly obtained from the Huntington Library at San Marino, California, Archives Nationales in Paris, the Library of Congress in Washington and the Public Record Office in London. A few were obtained from other places. The volume represents a large amount of work on the part of the editors, who have attempted with evident success "to document as elaborately as possible" the period from 1747 to 1755 "as it was reflected in the Illinois country." The documents are presented in eleven chapters with appropriate headings. There is an adequate index. Including the difficult task of translating the French documents, many of them written by uneducated men, it is hard to see how the editors could have better performed their labors.

W. O. L.

Schoolmaster of Yesterday is a book of a reminiscent nature dealing with three school-masters of one family, who together taught in the Schools of Indiana for about a hundred years. The volume has recently come from Whittlesey House (a division of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, N. Y.)