

like in his background of flora and fauna. Characters are adequate, though not outstanding. There are no powerful villains and no overwhelming heroes. The author's characters are in keeping with the book and life. The book is hardly dramatic enough to film into a "super-colossal," horrifying enough to be a thriller, or heart-rending enough to be a best seller. Rather it is a saga of a family and a region.

A casual reading by someone familiar with the period would have eliminated some of the minor irritations. Pioneers did not clear land by starting forest fires (how the senior Benton stopped his fires is not clear); nor did they sow wheat in newly-cleared land—if they wanted wheat. Invariably the rifle is loaded in a most amazing way: "Methodically he rammed in the ball and spilled the powder down the muzzle and into the pan." This isn't a slip, it's a ritual. A smooth-bore musket becomes a rifle (283-4). People travel up the Ohio in "broadhorns," chop limbs with mattocks, and do other interesting things. Better editing would have taken care of the "none were" habit.

This Land is Ours is recommended not only for the historical student, but for the reader who enjoys a good story and at the same time may like to refresh his mind on some of the struggles by which the heart of our continent became what it is.

R. CARLYLE BULEY.

Lazare Carnot, Republican Patriot. By Huntley Dupre. The Mississippi Valley Press, Oxford, O., 1940. Pp. 343, \$4.50.

This volume is the first of the series designated as the "Foundation Studies in Culture" by the new historical publishers, and is a worthy addition to that growing list of studies of important figures of the French Revolutionary era which American scholars have contributed in recent years.

Carnot, justly known as the Organizer of Victory for France, 1793-1795, merits the respect of every true friend of popular government, for he not only helped save one of the first of modern democracies from its autocratic enemies, but he has furnished others with practical and effective patterns of military administration and tactics which, if

properly applied, may do the same for them. A military engineer who began his career under the Old Régime, he mastered the science of fortification as developed by the great Vauban and others of the older school, and earned wide recognition from his contemporaries through his writings as well as actual conduct of operations in the revolutionary period. Yet, he did not believe that a defensive policy or heavy permanent fortifications were or could be the best protection for the French Republic against the coalition of its enemies. How unfortunate that the military and political leaders of the Third Republic did not follow his constant policy that "tactics must ever make the greatest use of mass action and the offensive" (the *blitzkrieg*) rather than trusting to the Maginot line!

To Carnot, a member of the Committee of Public Safety after the adoption of conscription in August 1793, fell the monumental task of organizing the Republic's new military establishment. A million barefoot, ragged and hungry conscripts had to be and were rapidly clothed, fed, and equipped—transformed into trained veterans to drive the invading Allied armies from the soil of France. Carnot created the new machine, beginning with the army training camp system, procured and administered the equipment and the commissioned personnel, while at the same time he directed to a great extent the operations of the new armies, sometimes in the field and more often from the capital where he was burdened with a multitude of other tasks. The reader is astounded at the prodigious labor required of and performed by the Organizer of Victory in those critical months of 1793-'95, all carried out in harmony with the democratic and republican spirit of the times, with little resort to the terrorist measures of the political leaders of that frenzied period. Conscription was in the beginning a democratic military policy, publicly so recognized and adopted, and its results justified its application.

Under the Empire, Carnot had almost no career in the active military service, largely because of his own choice. He was a true republican, devoted to the principles of the Revolution and to the Republic. These facts undoubtedly influenced Napoleon in his decision to dispense with Carnot's services after the defeat of the Second Coalition. Curiously, however, in the epilogue of the Hundred Days, he rallied

to the assistance of Bonaparte and received as his reward permanent exile by the restored Bourbons. Ironically, it was the Germans who gave him asylum and they seem to have learned some profitable lessons from this Republican patriot.

The book is marred by carelessness in proof-reading, especially in the spelling of French names and in the use of accent marks. Such defects do not, however, detract from the great value of Professor Dupre's contribution to the historical literature of the French Revolutionary era. Carnot's biography should find many readers in these hectic times so much like those which France faced in 1793.

A. DALE BEELER

Ballads and Songs of Indiana. Collected and edited by Paul G. Brewster. *Indiana University Publications, Folklore Series, No. I*, Bloomington, Indiana, 1940. Pp. 379, \$1.00.

This folksong collection consists of one hundred ballads and songs found in Southern Indiana, including many old English and Scottish ballads, and tunes for fourteen of them. As this part of the State was settled more than a century ago, and largely from the South, the collection makes a lively and valuable addition to the store of related folksong surviving in the more isolated regions of the South.

In a brief introduction, Mr. Brewster recounts his four-year experience in working out this project, from the time when as a teacher of English Literature in Oakland City High School, Indiana, he added to an English and Scottish ballad assignment a search for fragments of song titles and opening lines known to students' older relatives. After this hesitant beginning had brought in half a dozen valuable songs, including two corrupt but recognizable Child ballads, he extended his search by arousing the interest of other students, of certain Indiana newspapers, and of the Southern Indiana McGuffey Club, until he had gathered some three hundred texts (exclusive of variants) and almost one hundred tunes, from which he has selected the present delightful collection. Mr. Brewster's prefixes to the various songs bring the reader into the very circle of these hundreds of enthusiastic songcatchers who have made this Indiana collection possible.

Since the people of Southern Indiana are largely of