

persons interested in Indiana history, Cathòlic missionary work, or the removal of the Potawatomi by the government; the Indiana Historical Society is to be commended for having brought out another worth while publication in its series.

Oscar S. Dooley

Half That Glory. By Stanley E. Gray. (The Macmillan Co., New York, 1941. Pp. 468. \$2.50.)

This is a historical novel of the European side of the War for American Independence. Christopher Keene, sensitive son of a Virginia planter on the make, had to discover his own life, and in the doing found it was interwoven with that of Virginia, Holland, England, France and finally the United States. Among the historical characters the irrepressible Beaumarchais naturally plays the main lead, but Arthur Lee, Dean, Franklin and others play important parts. Particularly well done is the portrayal of British opinion on the struggle, largely through the person of Edmund Lanham, merchant prince. Also the handicaps, jealousies, and general inadequacies under which the American representatives and agents in Europe operated. With no funds, often pulling at cross purposes, not even sure who was to be trusted among their own countrymen, and with British secret agents firmly ensconced in the staffs of the American representatives—the miracle of final success becomes no less a miracle.

As would be expected of a historian at home among the documents on both sides of the Atlantic the history is authentic; wherever the author exercises the privilege of literary deviation the fact is indicated in the historical note at the end. The background of London, Amsterdam, Paris; of towns, ships, vehicles, politics, and people, must have been laid both consciously and unconsciously, during years of study. The subsidiary characters are adequate, description at times brilliant, the love interest plausible, and the story "reads." And it is a story which should be read, as germane to our life today as ever. The book contains a brief bibliography and a historical note.

Most historians read and criticize historical novels, many have the materials for one or more, but few write them. Which of course accounts for the all too frequent mayhem committed by writers and pictures on our history. Historians

can dig; writers can write; now and then one can do both.

Stanley Gray, the author, is an Indianian (Shortridge High School, AB Wabash College, 1925; AM Indiana University, 1928, where he was instructor in history, 1928-29; Harvard, traveling fellow in England, etc.) who is now a member of the history faculty at the United States Naval Academy. This is a first novel—of many, let us hope.

R. C. Buley

Indiana University

Olive I. Downing, *Indiana's Poet of the Wildwood*. (Marion, Indiana, c. 1941, pp. xiii, 161).

This is a little book about one of Indiana's literary figures, Sarah T. Bolton. It contains a simple and uncritical tale of the life of the poet together with many of her poems. It is appropriate that it should appear, for the story and the poetry are worthy of preservation. The writings of this gentle lady made a contribution to the development of Indiana and to the state of mind that is characteristic of Hoosiers. Her poetry contains frequent references to the homely virtues, such as are expressed in the poem "Paddle Your Own Canoe," of which the following is the first stanza:

Voyager upon life's sea,
To yourself be true.
And where'er your lot may be,
Paddle your own canoe.
Never, though the winds may rave,
Falter nor look back
But upon the darkest wave
Leave a shining track.

Though better known for this poem, it may be that such snatches as the following, each from different poems entitled "Indiana," have been more significant.

Home of my heart, thy shining sand,
Thy forests and thy streams,
Are beautiful as fairyland
Displayed in fancy's dreams.
Home of a thousand happy hearts
Gem of the far Wild West
Ere long thy sciences and arts
Will gild the Union's crest.