the man who made a pastoral perigrination of thousands of miles upon taking up his duties at Vincennes. This same man, this "recluse" was he who enjoyed the frequent company of Mother Seton and her children, who enjoyed the classes at the Mount, and who enjoyed his pastoral visits and the worldly cheer of the French inhabitants at Vincennes. In his letters, Bruté reveals himself, not as a master of contemplative exposition, but as one who expresses himself, even in casual letters, in a disjointed and staccato fashion.

The book is incomplete. It has a narrative quality appealing to the casual reader, but the student would be disappointed were he to turn to it for detailed information. At times the sentence structure is somewhat confused and confusing. Maynard has popularized that which would have given greater satisfaction if treated in a more scholarly fashion. In so doing he has deprived the student of early American Catholic history of the details of the life of an important Church figure. It is to be hoped that the author will sometime enlarge upon his impressions of Simon Bruté, and give the academic world the benefit of his research.

Robert H. Irrmann


By George C. Osborn. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1943, pp. ix, 501. $4.00.)

Although the southern statesmen of the antebellum era have been given adequate treatment by historians, too many of the leaders of the South in the later period have been permitted to pass into oblivion. This volume is a worthy addition to the Southern Biography Series and will be welcomed by students of recent American history.

John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, whom Woodrow Wilson regarded as the last planter-statesman, was well prepared for public life. He attended the Kentucky Military Institute, Sewanee, the University of Virginia, Heidelberg in Germany, and the College of France at Dijon. He was elected to Congress in 1892 and served in the lower house until 1909. In 1908 he was elevated to the Senate and took his seat in that body in 1911. His career in the upper house ended with his retirement in 1923.

Dr. Osborn was greatly handicapped in telling the story
of Williams' career in the House of Representatives as the Mississippian destroyed all of his correspondence for that period when he was elected to the Senate. However, the Williams papers were available for the study of his Senatorial career, and the quality of the biography is greatly improved.

It appears that Williams was a good "party man" throughout his public life, and his views were rather typical of those held by the more conservative Democrats of the time. He was a consistent advocate of a low tariff, free silver, and an income tax law. From Williams' viewpoint, while a member of the lower house, all trusts were bad and a low tariff was the most effective method of curtailing their power. His relations with Bryan are not clearly defined, but one gets the opinion that he was never enthusiastic about the Nebraskan. In 1915, Williams wrote, "Bryan has every kind of sense except common sense. Sometimes he seems to be thoroughly devoid of that." Possibly that was an opinion of long standing. Williams was minority leader of the house from 1903 to 1908, and his influence on his party was great. His views were decidedly "progressive."

In the early years Williams displayed rather positive anti-imperialistic tendencies. Although he supported the move for Cuban independence, he opposed the annexation of Hawaii and the protectorate over the Philippines. The latter was a violation of the "Open Door" principle and contrary to the Monroe Doctrine. He thought the Philippines should be sold to England or Holland but was later willing to support a temporary protectorate over those islands.

Dr. Osborn displays an intimate knowledge of Mississippi history as he describes Williams' race in 1907 against James K. Vardaman for the Senate. Vardaman's use of the Negro as the "whipping boy" of Mississippi politics and Williams' more conservative and intelligent attitude toward the race problem will be of particular interest to readers unfamiliar with the "peculiarities" of southern politics.

Williams, it appears, was one of the first supporters of Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. His confidence in Wilson's ability and judgment was unbounded: "The people should trust Wilson and leave things to him and not to Congress." Wilson frequently sought Williams' opinion and advice, and the latter was a source of great strength to the ad-
ministration in the Senate. Williams played a leading part in Congress' adoption of Wilson's domestic program. The Senator bowed to the will of his constituents in regard to the prohibition amendment. He was personally against it and was certain that "it would fail because it was an endeavor to require morality by law." It appears that Williams thought the problem of woman suffrage should be left to the states, and he was positive in his view that the negro women should not be given the ballot. If an amendment was necessary it should specify white women. "He did not disqualify women sexually but racially."

Williams may have been an "anachronism" in his dress and manners, but his views and policies in regard to foreign affairs during Wilson's eight years were those of an intelligent and farsighted statesman. He was among the first to sense the danger to the world from German militarism. Early in 1915 he urged Wilson to take a firm and energetic stand against Germany. In contrast to his isolationism of earlier years, he was an ardent advocate of an international organization to prevent future wars. In November, 1916, he expressed views to Taft that were strikingly similar to those advanced by Franklin D. Roosevelt in his "quarantine" speech at Chicago. He was positive too that "militarism in Germany must simply be torn up by the roots" or else there would soon be another war. The Mississippian fought hard for the League of Nations and feared that if the League failed, "within 25 years you will be faced by a union between Germany, Russia, and Japan." He advised Wilson to reject all reservations presented by the enemies of the League. "It would be better to fail to enter the League than to destroy it with reservations. Someday the American people would knock at the doors of the councils of Europe and ask to be admitted. It is a shame that we could not enter as a charter member and dominate the League, as we undoubtedly would have dominated it."

Dr. Osborn spent many years studying the life of Williams and the results more than justify his efforts. The volume is remarkably free from errors; it contains an excellent bibliography, and the index is good.

Powell Moore