founding of Tulane University in New Orleans, which he served as first president from 1883 until his death.

In the meantime, Johnston, as professor and president, did considerable lecturing and writing, first in the field of history and English literature and later in the field of education. His published works include several volumes of poems; but his greatest work, thinks the author, is his biography of his father. Professor Shaw pictures Johnston as a liberal on labor relations, when such a position was unpopular; but on race relations he held the prevailing views of his section.

Having gleaned his materials largely from published and unpublished primary sources, the footnotes in the volume indicate that the author has done scholarly work. As is not infrequently the case, however, the style of writing hardly reaches as high a standard. The few typographical errors indicate a high standard of editing. A bibliography and index are included.

Willard H. Smith

Hoosier City, the Story of Indianapolis. By Jeannette Covert Nolan. *A Cities of America Biography.* (New York: Julian Messner, Inc., 1943, pp. xvi, 317. $2.75.)

"Not a guide book, not a history, but the engrossing quick-paced *story* of a great city," is the publisher's characterization of this interesting book. The contents fit the description. It is engrossing and quick-paced. It has some of the characteristics of history, but it adheres to literary methods and aims rather than the technique of the historian. It emphasizes the dramatic even though the dramatic may not be typical or particularly significant. It is the result of research in records written by contemporaries of the events described as newspapers and diaries. But diaries of children and a pageant which seems to have influenced the narrative in the latter part seem less likely to be reliable historical sources. Imaginary conversations and statements placed in quotations make it difficult to identify real quotations. It is, therefore, correct to describe it as a story rather than history, although it gives a vivid picture of the city's life.

Consequently, it should be evaluated as to the effectiveness of the picture of Indianapolis. On the whole the judgment must be favorable, but the effectiveness varies. Several

errors of fact indicate that the pioneer period is less well understood than the later periods. Beginning with the Civil War the author has a surer grasp of historical developments. In the industrial period slight attention is given to labor and the rise of the city's economic structure does not figure in proportion to its importance. Facts unfavorable to Indianapolis are also almost entirely lacking. The critical attitude which Booth Tarkington presented in *The Turmoil* and *The Magnificent Ambersons* is not to be found in the present work. Readers will have little hesitancy in classifying Mrs. Nolan as a devout Hoosier. Mrs. Nolan's study of the poet James W. Riley, in contrast, has enabled her to bring him into the present story and to write one of the better portions of the book concerning his time.

On the positive side many readers will secure from this volume a better understanding of the Hoosier City, its spirit in critical years of war, its aspirations in music, art, literature, and education. It gives an interesting story of the founding, growth, and development of Indianapolis, in which all the various aspects are coordinated and interestingly woven into the narrative. One must conclude that the author knows Indianapolis and that she understands why Indianapolis is not just another city.