

Book Reviews

David Dale Owen, Pioneer Geologist of the Middle West. By Walter Brookfield Hendrickson. *Indiana Historical Collections*, XXVII. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1943, pp. xiii, 180. \$2.00.)

This interesting biography of one of the leaders in New Harmony, Indiana, adds to the literature that has appeared in connection with that social experiment. David Dale, the fourth son of Robert Owen, was born at New Lanark, Scotland, and was educated in Scotland and Switzerland before coming to New Harmony with his father in 1828. He soon left for a short residence in New York and for further study in England before returning to make New Harmony his home. Here he continued his scientific studies under great handicaps, building and equipping a remarkable laboratory and museum.

In 1837 and 1838 the state of Indiana provided for a geological survey. Owen was appointed state geologist and after tours of inspection and study, he prepared the first two reports on the geology of the state.

Congress in 1839 required information upon mineral deposits in order to prevent the sale of public lands containing valuable mineral resources. Owen was appointed late in 1839 to make a survey of the lead mining regions of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. From the survey were prepared maps, exhibits of specimens, and a report. Owen's next task was to broaden his scientific knowledge, to become acquainted with other geologists, and to win their confidence and respect. In doing these things, he achieved a reputation as the leading geologist of the Middle West.

Provisions were made in 1847 for opening the Chippewa Land District in northeastern Minnesota and Owen was employed to make a survey in order that the mineral land could be distinguished from the non-mineral. The survey was broadened to include Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and the *Report* attracted attention both at home and abroad. In the last six years of his life he managed a survey for Kentucky, another for Arkansas, and under his direction, his brother Richard undertook a new survey for Indiana. Overwork and hardships encountered in his field work brought death in 1860 to David Dale Owen. The author concludes

that Owen's main contribution was the determination and naming of the major geological formations of the Mississippi Valley, placing them broadly in their relative positions in the geologic time scale and helping to standardize geologic nomenclature throughout the United States.

A bibliography of Owen's writings as well as a bibliography of works used by Hendrickson in preparing this work are to be found in this little volume.

Freedom's Ferment. By Alice Felt Tyler. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1944, pp. x, 608. \$5.00.)

Of the phases of American social history to 1860, Mrs. Tyler has taken two dominant trends as the theme of her study: "Cults and Utopias" and "Humanitarian Crusades." In exposition of the former topic, the author has dealt briefly with the religious life of colonial America, and has developed at greater length the utopian strivings of early nineteenth-century America. The very obvious movements are discussed, such as transcendentalism, Brook Farm, Bronson Alcott and Fruitlands, Mormonism, Shakerism, and New Harmony; and lesser-known phenomena are also depicted: the Fox sisters and their spirit rappings, Frances Wright and Nashoba, and Jemima Wilkinson, the Universal Friend.

In treating the latter subject, "Humanitarian Crusades," Mrs. Tyler has undertaken to sketch the history of the anti-slavery movement and its culmination in the Civil War; early nineteenth-century women's rights movement; the nationalistic, nativistic, anti-Roman Catholic and anti-Masonic episodes in our nation's history; temperance; education; and criminal and social reform. All have been treated with a facile pen, though the exposition occasionally seems interlarded with quotations.

Mrs. Tyler has the gift of writing well; her study can be criticized from one point of view, however, as being too textbookish. It is on this comment that most reviewers would indulge in *obiter dictum*. Depending upon the reader's approach to the book, it will appear as too lengthy for general exposition, too reliant upon secondary materials, and perhaps in part even superfluous.

The general reader will find in this book a good summation of the various "crack-pot" movements that studded this period. It represents a mine of information within its limits,