

Ohio Comes of Age, 1873-1900. By Philip D. Jordan. Edited by Carl F. Wittke. Vol. V of *The History of the State of Ohio*, in six volumes. (Columbus: Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1943, pp. xiii, 550. \$25.00 for set.)

This volume describes the development of a Middle Western commonwealth in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Although the task of organizing and coordinating the various phases of life was difficult, it was accomplished with much success. The work includes politics, agriculture, transportation, city life, industry, and a conglomeration of material which is usually classified as social history.

Ohio's political history was unusually significant in this period for three of her sons became President, while others achieved prominence of a somewhat lesser degree. It was necessary to relate two stories in the chapters on politics, one delineating the state contests and the other describing national developments, particularly those phases of special significance to Ohio. Agricultural activities are pictured, including crops, animals, improved methods, machinery, the Grange, and other factors influencing the life of the farmer. The decline of the canal system, the coming of the railroads, and the struggle for state regulation of railroad rates are narrated in a chapter on transportation. The rise of industry and big business gave Ohio such varied products as the cash register, farm machinery, iron and coal, and such other results as the rise of urban centers, labor controversies, and the development of insurance and fire prevention. The shame of city government is painted in a realistic manner under the title, "Bosses and Boodle."

A second chapter, "The Rise of the City," tells the story of the foreign born; of the rise of fire, police, and health protection; and of the organizations devoted to charities, religion, education, and sports. A third chapter on politics is divided between the election of William McKinley to the presidency and the activities of Joseph B. Foraker, Mark Hanna, John Sherman, and other leaders who endeavored to control the Republican party, win the elections, and meet the popular demand for regulation of big business. They endeavored to do the latter without injuring the corporations.

The great variety of material included in the author's concept of history is indicated by the last four chapters of this volume. They involve a description of Ohio's development in respect to architecture, furniture, fashions, lodges,

fairs, and sports; the treatment of the sick, the unfortunate, and the criminals; the habits of Ohioans in regard to reading and music; the development of schools and colleges; the activities of a varied list of inventors and scientists; and, finally, the work of a host of literary writers and artists.

There are occasional statements in the volume which will be questioned. For example: "It was well known that Grant was not a candidate for re-election [in 1876]. . . ." (p. 50); "In 1879 . . . the secretary of the treasury resumed specie payment, and the Nation again was on a gold basis" (p. 152); and "The elections of 1878 were unimportant as only Congressmen were to be voted upon. . . ." Oddly enough, the campaign of 1896 is eloquently described but without treating the People's party (pp. 322-23). The extent to which social history takes the historian in his search of truth is revealed on pages 433-34 where the invention of artificial fish bait is the subject of comment. In the discussion of disease and of medical advance, the use of technical medical terms unknown to the laymen may encourage the tendency to lay the book aside rather than to persevere to the end. All of these are, however, quite minor points.

Excellent illustrations, some thirty in number, grace the narrative and make a contribution to the reader. The work is well annotated and indexed but, like the other volumes of the series, lacks a bibliography. Unfortunately, the author's name is misspelled on the outside cover. It is quite obvious, however, that the defects are minor and of little importance and that the volume is a significant addition to the historiography of Ohio.

John D. Barnhart

Behind the Lines in the Southern Confederacy. By Charles W. Ramsdell. *The Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History.* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1944, pp. xxi, 136. \$2.00.)

The Plain People of the Confederacy. By Bell Irvin Wiley. *The Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History.* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1943, pp. ix, 104. \$1.50.)

These little volumes give interesting pictures of the non-military history of the Confederacy. They are timely volumes