

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

which reveal how a portion of the people of this country fared in a previous war, how they resisted the demoralizing developments which arose during that long struggle, and how a brave people continued until defeat overcame them.

The first of these is the result of the mature scholarship of a former leading authority on the Confederacy. It treats the numerous problems which the government of the Confederate states failed to solve and the effects of the failures upon the people at home. "It was inevitable that discontent should be felt and voiced by those who suffered undue privations, especially when they saw their children go without shoes, warm clothing, meat, and sometimes without bread [p. 45]."

Public finance, the scarcity of necessities, high prices, speculation, lack of adequate transportation facilities, the suffering of the poor, especially the women and children at home, all led the Southern people to lose some of their faith in *laissez faire* and to demand that their governments should act to bring relief. When successful remedies were not produced, demoralization and desertion resulted. Governments strove to find remedies, even adopting measures which were contrary to well-established practices and prejudices. The people of the South labored manfully and devotedly against discouragements until their experiment in Southern nationalism disintegrated before their eyes and they were overwhelmed by superior forces. Conditions on the home front were fundamental causes of the collapse, according to Professor Ramsdell.

A bibliography of the writings of the author and an introduction by a distinguished native of Indiana, Dean Wendell H. Stephenson of Louisiana State University, are other features of the work. The editor of this series acted wisely in publishing these lectures even though the author did not live to give them the revision he had planned.

The second volume is also an interesting description of life in the Confederacy among the common people. The author is a much younger man but one who produced an excellent volume in 1943, *The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy* (see review in this periodical, XXXIX, June, 1943, pp. 192-93), and an earlier volume on *Southern Negroes, 1861-1865*. The material presented in chapters one and three of the present work bears consider-

able resemblance in shorter form to these volumes. The new material, therefore, is to be found largely in the second chapter, "The Folk at Home." Even this chapter contains some information which had been presented by Ramsdell.

The beginning student of Confederate history will find much interest in this volume, but the scholar will turn rather to the author's longer works. The realistic approach and the rejection of former idealistic pictures of negroes, soldiers, and people alike should appeal to students of Southern history.

The Wake of the Prairie Schooner. By Irene D. Paden. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1943, pp. xix, 514. \$3.00.)

An usual mixture of sound history derived from early day sources and the personal reminiscences of the author results in a vivid and informative account of the old Oregon or the California trail. Following the two forks of the trail which branched out in the vicinity of Fort Hall and Soda Springs and which lead to the Willamette Valley and the California gold diggings, Mrs. Paden personally travelled the entire route westward from St. Joseph, the immigrants' historic "jumping place."

Mrs. Paden's technique combined with literary skill has made the history of the Oregon Trail live again for the present generation. Describing what is still visible of the old trail, no known aspects of the arduous journeys undertaken by western pioneers have escaped Mrs. Paden's attention. The organization of the caravans, the battles with the elements, and accounts of Indian attacks, hunger, thirst, and death are related. Personalities such as Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Meacham, Bridges, Fremont, Hunt, and the Applegates appear frequently. Since the author is not confined to any one particular year or to any particular migration, she draws, as did Archer B. Hulbert in his *Forty-Niners*, upon related experiences for her illustrative material. A white man is skinned alive by Indians, and wagons are lost in the quicksands of the meandering Platte River. She weaves in the history surrounding the innumerable historic landmarks, some of which, like Chimney Rock and Court House Rock, will remain monuments for all time.

The maps and drawings are also of Mrs. Paden's handi-