

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-

work. The former comprise sections of the trail and, when pieced together, form a remarkably detailed and accurate map of the entire route with important place names, cut-offs, streams, and other landmarks clearly indicated.

Wartime restrictions, unfortunately, have necessitated encasing the volume in an inexpensive-looking binding. Such a good and interesting book is deserving of a more attractive cover.

Oscar O. Winther

#### **CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN, 1875-1944**

The death of Dr. Coleman, June 25, 1944, will bring sorrow to many of the readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. As director of the Indiana Historical Bureau and secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, he has been closely associated with this publication. In earlier years he was its editor (1908-1911). Almost from the beginning, he was a frequent contributor and more recently prepared for each issue a short statement about the Indiana Historical Society. He was widely known in the state and nation, and his friendly leadership will be missed throughout Indiana.

John D. Barnhart