

such her approach to a discussion of oaths of allegiance to the infant revolutionary state colors the materials with which she has dealt. She has not distorted anything she has used, nor has she misrepresented anything. Her introduction and text, however, are too summary and too disjointed to be very useful to the historian. Her work is little more than a brief survey of the various oaths (not only to the United States, but to various offices as well of which certain men were then the incumbents) taken in the three years prior to 1779.

Fifteen pages are devoted to explanation; the remainder of the book is a list of signers of oaths. The lists are compiled from the originals in the National Archives and the Library of Congress. The compiler's chief interest seems to be in providing a list of men hereby proved to have participated in the American Revolution. She has included some interesting facsimiles of various types of oaths. As a handbook of signers it is very useful; as a historical study of the oaths and their background, it falls short of the ideal.

It is the genealogist primarily, not the historian, who presided over the compiling and writing of this book. Her enthusiasms sometimes overreach themselves: "The usefulness of the material in these oaths in genealogical research far exceeds the bare fact that a given individual 'took and subscribed' the oath on a certain day. The existence of a man's name in this roster of patriots is indisputable evidence that he was a person trusted by the Continental Congress."

The author, too, has a tendency to see nothing but high resolve and noble purpose in the actions of the men of the American Revolution. In her mind they *all* took oaths because of idealism and not to ensure holding a post. To her "They are unequivocal endorsement of the action of the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence and for that, if for no other reason, they are deserving of our most respectful attention." Sidney George Fisher, to mention but one of many, would undoubtedly take exception to this viewpoint. The inclusion of the name of Benedict Arnold, as an early signer of the oaths now reposing in the National Archives, seems to shatter Nellie Waldenmaier's thesis at the outset.

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Climate of Indiana. By Stephen Sargent Visher. (Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, c. 1944, pp. 511. \$4.00.)

Encyclopedia of Indiana Climate might have been the title given to this volume, for it is very inclusive. It treats not only the major topics, but it analyzes them into their more minute parts and describes these smaller subjects. For instance under precipitation the following divisions receive attention: seasonal, monthly average, weekly average, daily, and hourly precipitation. Under climate there is a chapter describing the "Climate of Seven Legal Holidays." Large amounts of statistical data are included. Scattered through the five hundred pages are 486 maps and charts and 81 tables. Consequently, it is quite likely that it will be used as a reference book rather than as general reading. In many parts it is very interesting, in others somewhat heavy and dull.

The work begins with a summary, followed by four chapters on

temperature; five on precipitation; one each on floods, humidity, and sunshine and clouds; three on storms; one each on seasons, weather types, holiday climates, and climatic changes; four on relations of climate and physiography, crop yields, and health; and finally, three chapters which treat the climate of the subregions and cities of the state.

Quite a little of the book uses the threefold division of the state into northern, central, and southern thirds, but these thirds are not described or mapped. The author is probably exact in his use of these and similar terms, but it would be helpful to have them defined. The author shows a tendency to be satisfied with approximations, as in describing figures 361, 362, 169, and 221. For most readers the climographs in chapter 'twenty-three should be explained for they are very complicated and unintelligible to the readers without specialized training. These are minor items and are easily offset by generalizations like the following:

The regional contrasts in rainfall intensity clearly help to explain the sharp southward increase in soil erosion, and therefore in ruggedness. The greater runoff induced by the greater intensity and slope at the south results not only in poorer soil but also in drier soil, as little rapidly running water soaks in. The greater rainfall intensity helps to cause the smaller crop yields, the smaller fraction of the land used for crops, and the average greater poverty of the people in southern Indiana.

The historian will be interested in knowing what progress has been made in correlating climate and history. This work lays the foundation in that it describes in detail the climate of Indiana, but it does not go very far beyond that. The chapters on health and crops offer some suggestions, but fundamentally the correlation remains to be done, in fact, it seems to be outside the scope which the author set for himself.

The book should have a wide appeal for every one knows something about and is interested in various phases of the weather. Copies of it will be very useful in newspaper offices, school libraries, and public and private libraries generally.

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