

time. When some were amazed at his liberal gifts, he laughed and said, "Some men keep race horses or women. I'd rather help support a university." From his bachelor home "The Hills" he continued active as "Trustee Extraordinary" and "Citizen Consultant," inventing, improving and inspiring to the end, which came in 1943.

Mr. Kelly has written simply, effectively and in keeping with Dave Ross' personality. The author might have given more of the history of Ross' business, but has chosen to emphasize his public services. When Bruce Rogers "of Indiana" (Purdue '90), A. Colish, The Plimpton Press, the Meriden Gravure Company and Mr. Alfred A. Knopf all combine their talents to the making of a book, one expects it to be a nice-looking book, a nice book to handle. It is. Purdue, Indiana and points beyond should feel pleased with the result.

R. Carlyle Buley

Pioneer Sketches of the Upper Whitewater Valley, Quaker Stronghold of the West. By Bernhard Knollenberg. (Volume XV, Number 1, Indiana Historical Society, *Publications*, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1945, pp. 171. \$0.75.)

"I wrote this book because I was born and brought up in the Whitewater Valley and love it. But I have a special reason for publishing it at this time. In 1908, Josiah Royce said in his *Philosophy of Loyalty*: 'We need . . . in this country, a new and wiser provincialism . . . the sort of provincialism which makes people want to idealize . . . their own province; to hold sacred its traditions, to honor its worthy dead.' 'Further centralization of power in the national government,' he continues, 'without a constantly enriched and diversified provincial consciousness, can only increase the estrangement of our national spirit from its own life.' These words are even more apposite today."

The author, who thus clearly stated his purpose, has carried out his intentions without falling into the pitfalls which lay before him. The little volume which he produced is not strictly speaking a history of the Whitewater Valley, although it is a historical account of many of the important early developments.

It begins with the forced withdrawal of the Indians and the arrival of the Friends in the upper valley. Descriptions

of early social conditions, and the establishment of local government, are followed by an account of the organization of the Friends Church and the Underground Railroad. In a chapter entitled "Henry Clay makes a Speech," the author is less cautious and critical, and indeed seems to leave the impression that it was this speech that defeated Clay. The Free Produce Movement, the Methodists, Joseph Tarkington, the National Road, the Whitewater Canal, the coming of the Germans, Earlham College, the Gold Rush, and the arrival of the Railroads are treated in successive chapters. The narrative stops at this point, but there is a final chapter on a canoe trip down the Whitewater in 1940.

Most of the chapters are written from a contemporary narrative or two, from which copious extracts are quoted. The merits of the book include this revelation of the rich store of contemporary materials and the thorough understanding which the author has of the valley. He has produced one of those delightful little books which the reader wishes had been twice as long.

John D. Barnhart

Mid Country. Edited by Lowry C. Wimberly. (University of Nebraska Publication, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York, 1945, pp. xiv, 510. \$3.50.)

America is West—An Anthology of Middlewestern Life and Literature. Edited by John T. Flanagan. (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1945, pp. vi, 677. Map. \$3.00.)

Here in *Mid Country* are seventy-eight selections of "writings from the heart of America." Although *Mid Country* is defined as "the land between the mountains"—from the Appalachians to the Rockies, from the Lakes to the Gulf, the great majority of the reprints presented deal with the great plains region. Many of them uphold the idea contained in Glenway Wescott's definition of the region as "a certain climate, a certain landscape; and beyond that, a state of mind of people born where they do not like to live." Among the authors represented are such well-known names as J. Frank Dobie, James Stevens, Marie Sandoz, Ruth Suckow, Walter Prescott Webb, and Jesse Stuart. Many of the pieces, since they originally appeared in the regional and "little"