Via Western Express and Stagecoach. By Oscar Osburn Winther. (Stanford University Press, Stanford University, California, 1945, pp. xi, 158. Index, maps, and illustrations. $3.00.)

This is the latest of the popular Stanford University Press publications on the romantic aspects of west-coast history. In this work the more serious economic and financial treatments (as well as the documentation) of the author's earlier Express and Stagecoach Days in California have been omitted. Gold, the coming of the express, "Knights of the Lash," road agents, the "Butterfield Overland Mail," and the "Battle of the Giants" for control of transportation and express are here described and discussed in ten brief chapters written in lively and readable style; much source material is incorporated in the text. Two dozen illustrations of contemporary vintage, decorative illustrations for covers, title pages and chapter headings, and large end maps add to the attractiveness of this well designed and beautifully printed 7 x 10 inch book.

Dr. Winther, member of the Indiana University Department of History, is quite at home in the history of the Far West. At present he is on leave with a Huntington Library fellowship, working on some larger projects on the history of the Pacific Coast.

R. Carlyle Buley

Seargent S. Prentiss: Whig Orator of the Old South. By Dallas C. Dickey. (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1945, pp. xiv, 422. Illustrations and bibliography. $4.00.)

The name of Seargent S. Prentiss looms large in the fourth and fifth decades of the nineteenth century but prior to the writing of this volume no one had attempted to portray his total career. Dr. Dickey's research has been so thorough and exhaustive and his interpretations have been so impartial that it seems unlikely that his task ever will need to be redone. He is just as free and frank in explaining the vices and shortcomings of Prentiss as in interpreting his virtues.

The short periods which Prentiss served in the Mississippi legislature and in the United States Congress were