

Publicly, however, he still moved with caution, and it was only after he became convinced that he could actually win the Republican nomination away from Taft that he entered the lists. By the time that effort failed his commitments and emotions pushed him into the fatal third party move, in which, according to his private correspondence, he expected nothing but defeat.

In the long run, Mowry asserts, the Bull Moose split was more harmful than otherwise to the liberal cause. For when the chastened Progressives returned to the Republican fold their influence was gone, and the party was to be consistently conservative through the next generation. In his closing years, Roosevelt, himself, turned to military preparedness, nationalism, and conservatism.

The excellent style of this book could have been further improved by more economical phrasing. The most serious criticism in the eyes of this reviewer, however, is the inordinate amount of space given to the years 1909-1912, with consequent slighting of other periods. The explanation for T. R.'s decision to head a third party in 1912 is not entirely satisfying in the light of his usual antipathy for foredoomed causes. After he failed to get the Republican nomination he could have launched another of his hunting trips or retired to his tent. Perhaps the progressive split was not as much responsible for Republican conservatism in the twenties as were the war, prosperity, and the basic rural and business nature of its composition.

These judgments are intended as casual remarks on a valuable study rather than as sweeping criticisms.

Cedric Cummins

*A Shelf of Lincoln Books, a critical selective bibliography of Lincolniana.* By Paul M. Angle. (Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey, in association with The Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield, Illinois, 1946, pp. xvii, 142. \$3.00.)

For the many students of Lincoln's career, who are not experts or authorities, this little bibliography is essential. Angle has furnished them a guidebook through the intricacies of the writings of and about Lincoln.

The writings and speeches of the Civil War President

were not all published by John G. Nicholay and John Hay and the student will want to know where to find the more recently discovered items and the trustworthiness of the various editors and compilers.

The task of writing an adequate life of Lincoln has been too difficult for the biographers, each of whom had their deficiencies, but many of whom had their virtues. Angle treats them fairly and points out their strong and weak points. Nicholay gives us "excellent summaries of all the major problems of the war and Lincoln's attitude towards them . . . [p. 41]." Barton "is still the best source for the ancestry of Lincoln, both maternal and paternal . . . [p. 49]." "Beveridge's account of the Indiana period of Lincoln's life is unrivalled . . . His is by long odds the best and most exhaustive treatment of Lincoln's eight years in the Illinois legislature, and of his one term in the national House of Representatives. In fact, Beveridge's account of Lincoln's entire political career, including party management as well as office holding, is unsurpassed, and not likely to be excelled [p. 55]."

The special studies and monographs are also treated in similar manner. One work is evaluated thusly: "A compilation that could have been enormously valuable to the general reading public is actually often misleading . . . [p. 97]." Where to go to learn about constitutional matters, personal finances, or any of a number of special phases of his life, is answered in the discussion of these works.

The bibliography at the end of the volume includes the studies which the author has evaluated. It, therefore, includes some eighty-one items and constitutes "A Shelf of Lincoln Books" about which the student of Lincoln should be well informed.

This excellent guide and the inclusive *Lincoln Bibliography* by Jay Monaghan places the student of this period at a point of tremendous advantage and under a great debt to these two Lincoln scholars.

John D. Barnhart

*Theory and Practice in Historical Study: A Report of the Committee on Historiography.* (Bulletin 54, Social Science Research Council, New York, 1946, pp. xii, 177. Index and Bibliography. Paper \$1.75, Cloth \$2.25.)

This report is a composite reaction to the historical phi-