

a century ago, the number of Ade's published volumes will come as a surprise. Hardly a year passed between 1894 and 1940 which did not see the appearance of one or more Ade books. The editor has faithfully chronicled all these publications and has abstained from distinguishing the few durable items from the many ephemeral works. The reprinting of Ade's stories has not been followed as carefully, however, as the compilation of other sections of the bibliography. Thus there is no mention of the appearance of "Effie Whittlesy" in *The Bedside Book of Famous American Stories* compiled by Angus Burrell and Bennett Cerf in 1936, nor of the inclusion by E. B. White and Katharine S. White of three Ade fables in their *Subtreasury of American Humor* in 1941.

The index too shows certain aberrations. In general it is full and adequate, but there is a strange tendency to list some persons under their given names and again more fully under their last names. Newton Booth Tarkington, listed under "N," has one item following, but "Tarkington, Booth," has eight entries. John T. McCutcheon, listed under "J," has two entries following, but "McCutcheon, John T." has eighteen, including the first two. James Corbett, Joe Cannon, and John Ringling are all listed under "J" as well as under their last names. "Crane, William H." is followed by two entries, whereas "William H. Crane" gets only one. Such indexing is probably neither harmful nor bothersome, but it does seem eccentric.

The book suggests another remark in which the editor will probably concur. Ade merits more scholarly attention than he has received. Only one full-length biography has so far appeared, and it is more accolade than evaluation. There have been few serious studies of Ade in the periodicals even if one adds John Abbott Clark's appreciation of the fables in the *South Atlantic Quarterly* for October, 1947, which probably appeared too late for inclusion here. Ade is not even mentioned in Lewis Leary's checklist of articles on American literature which appeared in the periodicals from 1920 to 1945 (Durham, North Carolina, 1947). The Russo bibliography then, a monument to George Ade the man, indicates the need for further investigation of Ade the writer.

University of Illinois

John T. Flanagan

Colonel Dick Thompson, the Persistent Whig. By Charles Roll. (Volume XXX of the *Indiana Historical Collec-*

tions, Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1948, pp. xv, 315. Illustrations and index. \$2.50.)

The career of a Secretary of the Navy who hailed from the banks of the Wabash contained several interesting phases. He was a native of Virginia who settled in Terre Haute which had a reputation of being more Southern than other Indiana cities. He formed his political principles as a follower of Henry Clay, and, once having formed them, he did not desert them. He opposed the agitation of the slavery issue, but was too much of a nationalist to permit the division of the Union. During the war he became a Republican because the efforts of the old line Whigs to form a permanent Constitutional Union party had failed. As commandant of Camp Dick Thompson near Terre Haute and later as provost marshal of the Seventh Congressional District, he was active in raising, training, and forwarding troops. Always a campaign orator of marked ability, he served his party year after year and occasionally held office in the legislature or in Congress. Desiring an Indiana man in his cabinet, President Hayes named Thompson the secretary of the navy. The secretary supported his chief on the issues of reconciliation with the South, the reform of the civil service, and in his veto of measures attached to appropriation bills, but was not so insistent upon "sound" currency. He gave the navy a conscientious business-like administration. Before the end of Hayes' presidency, he resigned from the cabinet to become the highly paid secretary of the American committee for the French Panama Canal Company, in other words a propagandist and lobbyist. After resigning in 1889, he lived on as the Grand Old Man of the Party and of Terre Haute. His life span extended from 1809 to 1900.

Professor Roll of Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, has written a very acceptable biography. It seems to be well-documented with published sources, contemporary newspapers, manuscript material left by Thompson, and some other miscellaneous records. This must be ascertained from the preface and the footnotes as a bibliography is not included in the work. The author is restrained and critical in his judgment. He thinks highly of Dick Thompson, but does not picture him as "a statesman of the first rank." He considers his connection with the Panama Canal Company unfortunate. He regards him as a conservative and as a provin-

cial, but a man of culture, of ability, and of principles. His career helps one to understand the development of Indiana.

The book is written in a clear readable style, it is handsomely printed, and the editorial work and proofreading have been carefully done. If the opening genealogy seems a little pointless and confused, the remainder of the volume is free of these defects. It is a welcome addition to the historical literature of Indiana.

Indiana University

John D. Barnhart

Executive Proceedings of the State of Indiana, 1816-1836.

Edited by Dorothy Riker. (Volume XXIX of the *Indiana Historical Collections*, Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1947, pp. xiv, 911. \$5.00.)

The proceedings of the executive division of the new state of Indiana were recorded for six years in the book used by the secretary of the territory. They were recorded in chronological order. When a new book was opened in 1823, the secretary began a topical arrangement of records. The second book was filled by 1836. The records here reprinted are those contained in these two volumes. The arrangement of the material is also determined by the methods used in making the original entries. A little less than half of the pages of the records are devoted to the appointments and to acts relating to individual counties. An index requires almost two hundred pages with two columns to the page. The book gives ample evidence of the careful work of the editor.

The minute information given about the operation of the state government will be of value to historians and political scientists. The very large number of persons whose names are included and the statements about the offices they held will be a mine of information for local historians and genealogists.

The Buffalo Trace. By George R. Wilson and Gayle Thornbrough. (Volume XV, No. 2., *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1946, pp. 100. \$0.75.)

The General Assembly of Indiana in 1935 provided for a commission to ascertain and fix the route of the historic Buffalo Trace across southern Indiana from the Falls of the Ohio to the territorial capital, Vincennes. George R. Wilson, a