canaling, pauses briefly to glance at famous ditches, then scampers on. Ancient Egypt, Sumeria, Assyria, Persia, Greece, Rome, Arabia, and China jostle in two cursory chapters totaling fifty-three pages. Following a fairly full treatment of Italian canals, a hasty glimpse of the Languedoc, and a fragmentary survey of British waterways, a summary of twenty-four pages disposes of American canals. Only five pages concern the Erie; four, the canals of Ohio and Pennsylvania; Illinois gets casual attention; Michigan and Indiana none. An elaborate historical prelude on the Panama Canal compresses the account of its construction, with all the attendant struggle, into a meager four pages. In a short finale two hundred years of Russian canaling huddle alongside a brief account of the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, with scant comfort to either. There is no account of Flemish canals, and inadequate comment on others.

The subtitle of this volume is misleading, for not enough is said about engineers, little about engineering, i.e., about the ingenuity of the Chinese or problems of designers, ancient and modern. In a stereotyped way we hear about the lives and times of Leonardo, Riquet, Brindley, Telford, de Lesseps, and Goethals. For some unknown reason the story of de Lesseps’ Suez triumph violates chronology by appearing after his Panama fiasco and senility. Conspicuous absentees from Payne’s book are other well-known engineers: Sir William Rennie and James Watt, notable Britihsers; Benjamin Wright, chief engineer of the Erie; his able assistants, James Gedds and Canvass White; Nathan Roberts, expert lock-builder; and Jesse Williams, chief engineer in Indiana.

The quantity of anecdote included in this volume would be more entertaining if less burdened with chestnuts told by canal historians for the past 150 years. The style varies from spruce to shoddy. At times Mr. Payne writes well, then, like a college freshman, lapses into shambly aggregations of phrases and clauses loosely connected, sometimes illogically, by the ubiquitous “and.” Such rickety construction implies hasty workmanship.

Skimming the surface of centuries of incredible human effort, this book is dilettante fluff; perfunctory coverage and too many omissions are inevitable defects of cramping a large subject into a narrow space. The inquiring reader will find greater rewards in the Encyclopedia Britannica. Still, the cover of blue and gray adorned with silver lettering is handsome, the typography pleasing. The publisher has admirably reproduced four maps and twenty-two pictures.

Purdue University Paul Fatout

Keeping the University Free and Growing. By Herman Lee Donovan. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1959. Pp. xi, 162. Frontispiece, appendices, index. $4.00.)

Keeping the University Free and Growing is the testament of an obviously sincere and devoted man, President Emeritus Herman Lee
Donovan of the University of Kentucky (1941-1956). This kind of work, with its straightforward approach to such perennial problems as the ever increasing encroachment of political controls upon the functions of governing boards and with its concern for academic freedom and institutional integrity, is always welcome reading. Those who care about the present and future of the academic world need such summaries of insights and experiences from the elder statesmen of higher education. It is, perhaps, with this need in mind that President Donovan deals with a wide variety of topics—from financing to athletics and from building programs to student citizenship—with the addition of an interesting bit of what must be pure introspection entitled, "The Role of the University President."

Yet, despite President Donovan's eagerness to speak forth decisively for the maintenance and growth of the great traditions of university development, his book may prove disappointing to some who seek an ordered rationale for the conduct of a major state university. For one thing, as this reviewer sees the book, the author never quite tells us what he considers to be the bedrock on which a free and dynamic university must rest. For another, with certain exceptions, it is difficult to discover the man behind the statements—his basic personality and fundamental convictions do not seem to come through his prose.

We need to know what kind of men have served in the past, so that we can more successfully fill the presidential chairs of the future. We cannot, of course, expect all such works as this to have the magisterial tone of a Henry Wriston or a James Conant, the deliberate controversialism of a Robert Hutchins, or the calm intellectuality of a Nathan Pusey. It would be unrealistic to expect all university presidents to articulate on these Olympian levels. Still, these are the heights from which clear views can be had of the insidious crises being bred in new forms in our confusing world of expanding mass education.

If President Donovan does not quite take us to these heights, if at times his book fails in that it sounds a bit too much like copy-work or a report to a constituency of matters the constituency wants to hear, he is aware of the heights reached by others and pays tribute to the ideals they have proclaimed. Further, it is apparent that he has, at times with a commendable sense of urgency, attempted to live and work by the ideals of his more luminous contemporaries. Some, after all, must always confine themselves to the sheer hard work of translating ideas into practice, and if done well, this is a distinguished achievement in itself. The future, not this review, will make the final judgment.

Indiana University

John C. Buhner