In the outermost circle comes the impact of the "more general, the broader ranging elements in human societies—the social conditioning of entrepreneurship" (p. 98)—the forces that influence the circumstances under which entrepreneurship comes into existence, those that affect the quality of the talent attracted to it, and those that affect the changing and manifold relationships of the rest of a given society with the entrepreneurial segment. Thus a variety of forces influence the motivations, the modes of conduct, and the effectiveness of the entrepreneurs—education, resources, governmental administration, ethnic coherences, cultural forces, etc.

"It is only by giving attention to such a broad assemblage of factors that one can hope to give answers to such questions of prime importance for a study of economic development as: how the system of production got into its present form? What makes it operate in the way that it does? Is the performance getting better or worse? What is likely to happen in the future? Present-day economics is not geared by its traditions, its methods, or its objectives to deal with such questions. In a Western world devoted dominantly to private enterprise, only a type of economics with a time dimension in which entrepreneurial activity is the central thread can hope to render enlightening answers" (p. 134).

Part II presents a series of descriptive essays surveying in the light of the approach outlined in Part I the field of writing upon entrepreneurship. Many of the essays cover the work of the Entrepreneurial Center in Entrepreneurial History at Harvard University during the time from 1948 to 1958 when Dr. Cole played such a central role, but many draw upon the studies of others stimulated to an approach similar to that of the Harvard group. These essays center around "the relations of entrepreneurs to social classes, to primitive economic conditions, to technological changes, to the different forms of economic organization, and to government" (p. 139) in a search for the discoveries of uniformities and generalizations which will be useful for further explorations.

The book closes with a summary essay on the process of entrepreneurial change. The range of information, the insights, and the fruitful suggestions for further study are too numerous and significant to be suggested in a review. It is in the belief that perusal of this work will be provocative and stimulating to all who are interested in business enterprise in its social setting that we recommend its careful study.

Indiana University

Joseph A. Batchelor


General and local studies about the business corporation and its role in American economic life have increased in number, scope, and significance during the last quarter century as is indicated in the Preface to the volume under review. In The Wisconsin Business
Corporation George J. Kuehnl gives primary emphasis to the types of business corporations which developed in Wisconsin. He discusses their legal and constitutional status and governmental activities regarding their promotion and regulation, principally from the 1830's through the 1870's.

Mr. Kuehnl has done laborious and detailed research concerning Wisconsin business corporations for the period indicated. Moreover, he has at least made a reconnaissance of Wisconsin's political history and development for the period of his study. He makes clear that the question of the appropriate relationship between business and government and the issue of "honesty" in such relations were not something new when these and related questions were brought to state and national attention by Governor Robert M. LaFollette and the Wisconsin Progressives early in the twentieth century. Mr. Kuehnl's tabulations and summaries about the various business corporations are useful, and he shows beyond doubt that the provisions of early business charters were generally loosely drawn and often drafted or approved by legislators directly involved in their success or failure.

A pioneering study in an important area, however, is seldom as effectively done as is desirable. This volume suffers from poorly digested and organized massive detail. It is difficult reading and is unduly repetitious. Its main ideas are often hard to follow. Page nine overlooks the two banks chartered in Indiana in 1814, apparently because the years 1800-1809 were mistakenly used as the period during which Indiana was a territory. This book was apparently inadequately edited and developed. Nevertheless if its deficiencies are recognized, scholars can still find much of significance in it.

Indiana University


The literature of the American labor movement is immense, but few general histories of American labor have been published. Of these, the Commons four-volume History of Labour in the United States, completed in 1936, is the most comprehensive and the most scholarly. Since the publication of the Commons history, there have been only two general histories of American labor: American Labor History by Foster R. Dulles, published in 1949, and the current work by Professor Rayback.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I, "The Colonial and Revolutionary Era," includes a description of the colonial economy and an examination of the kinds, sources, and conditions of colonial labor. Colonial experiments in regulating the conditions of labor are described, and an interesting account is given of labor's role in colonial politics and its activities in support of the Revolution.

Part II, "The Transitional Era," relates the story of American labor during its formative years. It begins with a description of significant changes in the nature of economic enterprise following the