

to all branches of the armed services. Many pages are devoted to the Marine's part in the campaign. The Navy is praised for its heroic performance of duty even to its own extermination, and the services performed by the Air Corps are lauded many times. Wherever possible, individuals are cited for meritorious services. Any member of the armed forces will find that the book contains much information concerning his branch of the service. It will, however, add to his understanding in that he will be brought to the realization that an "American Team" won the campaign. Many parents will find in this work the story of heroism and sacrifice made by their loved ones. It is to be hoped that those who read this volume will resolve that never again will this country be faced by such a war.

Indiana University

William D. Miner

History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago. By Frank A. Randall. (Urbana, The University of Illinois Press, 1949, pp. xvi, 398. Illustrations and index. \$5.00.)

This volume is a valuable account of the evolution of building construction in Chicago from the erection of Fort Dearborn in 1804, the first structure of consequence in that territory, down to the present day.

The author, who is a Structural Engineer and a lecturer on the subject at the University of Illinois, has reviewed this wide field with the accuracy of both an engineer and a historian, and has included in the book carefully compiled records of the materials and methods of construction that were used for many, if not most of the important buildings that have been erected in the downtown area of the city.

The progress in building before the Great Fire in 1871 is described, from the erection of the first simple frame buildings to the invention of the light strong method of balloon construction for framing which was an important contribution to the framing systems used throughout the world.

Then came the first buildings of brick, followed by the use of elaborate cast iron fronts on many of the more important structures.

Some of the most pretentious buildings in the business district that were destroyed by the fire were from four to six stories in height. Most of them were less.

In this fire that lasted for several days and nights, approximately eighteen thousand buildings were destroyed, among them being the Grand Pacific Hotel, six stories in height, then being completed. When rebuilt it was described as the largest hotel in the world.

After the fire came the search for fire-resisting building materials and then came the revolutionary system of skeleton construction where the weight of the walls is carried to the foundations by a framework of steel. This new system of building was one in which Chicago engineers and architects were the pioneers.

Along with the new structural engineering that made possible the erection of skyscrapers, came the development of elevators that provided access to the top floors of the tallest buildings.

The author describes the studies that were made to provide more secure footings and foundations for the greater weight of the tall new buildings and tells of the methods that were devised, such as the use of wooden piles and concrete caissons.

Included in the volume are biographies of the leaders in building design and construction from the time of John M. Van Osdel, Chicago's first architect, who arrived in the town in 1837, down to those who had part in the creation of the marvelously beautiful Columbian Exposition.

The book is profusely illustrated with full-page pictures that cover the period from before the fire on down to the present time. To the architects and engineers who are engaged in the planning of buildings in the Chicago area, this will be a valuable reference book. For the average reader, the illustrations alone, giving as they do a continuous pictorial record that covers the period of three-quarters of a century, will be a source of enjoyment.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Lee Burns

James Whitcomb Riley as I Knew Him: Real Incidents in the Early Life of America's Beloved Poet. By Minnie Belle Mitchell. (Greenfield, Indiana, The Old Swimmin' Hole Press, 1949, pp. 224. Illustrations. \$3.50.)