and hydroelectricity are such to stimulate the inquisitive reader to further study.

The last half of this book could aptly be termed an introduction to the subject, and should present a challenge to future students who are willing to undertake research in the field. The bibliographical notes will appear high on any list of the book's contributions. A speedy reference to scholarly monographs on the frontier period is provided, more up-to-date and easier of access than Professor Winther's earlier bibliography of *The Trans-Mississippi West* (1942). The contrasting nature and quality of the material available on the early period with that on the last sixty years provides a standing rebuke to the so-called professional historians who have yet to do much digging to obtain the factual evidence essential to the preparation of a truly adequate and interpretative synthesis of far Northwestern history.

There is extensive evidence of haste in the preparation of the volume. Some discussions end abruptly, transitions are not always clear, and many sentences poorly written. Proofreading was not performed as dutifully as one might hope. For example, on page 401 "Ferment" becomes "Fermen" in the chapter heading and 1896 is recorded as 1869. Such slips appear on a dozen or more pages. However, to each author and publisher must be left the determination of the comparative importance of speed and perfection.

The second edition is a far better book than the first. Certainly the balance, deemed so essential, is there whether one thinks in terms of geography or chronology. An attempt has been made to consider not only political and economic trends but the social and cultural as well. Professor Winther is to be warmly commended for the necessary courage to undertake an extensive investigation which was too great for more pedantic historians of the region. The magnitude of the proposed study was a challenge, the end result worthy of it.

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*Migration into East Texas, 1835-1860: A Study from the United States Census.* By Barnes F. Lathrop. (Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1949, pp. xii, 114.)
Modern historians, particularly those of the United States, must find ways to utilize efficiently the increasingly overwhelming quantities of source materials available to them. If they do not succeed in this, they are doomed to an unfortunate choice between publishing work based on obviously incomplete research and devoting their lives to the thorough examination of microscopic topics of little or no significance.

From the title one might suppose that Dr. Lathrop's study would fall into the latter category, but his treatment of a limited subject has enabled him to conduct an experiment in methodology that has much wider applicability. Fully half of his text is devoted to the description of available federal census schedules and to exposition of the research technique he has developed to cope with this material. The explanation and demonstration of the method used for the exploitation of an important source for migratory patterns chart a course that should be suggestive to and receive the thoughtful attention of every serious student of American history.

Recognizing the existence of a wealth of information concerning family migration buried in the raw data showing the age, sex, birthplace, and family relationships of individuals listed in the census schedules, Dr. Lathrop set out to devise a way to extract this information and put it in manageable form. First, he adopted as a working formula the hypothesis that families moved from one place to another midway between the births of two children in different places. Thus, in this "child-ladder method," if one child of the family was born in Tennessee and was shown as four years old in 1850 and a second child was born in Texas and was two years of age, it is assumed that the family moved from Tennessee to Texas in 1846-1847. Dr. Lathrop is quite aware that this is not necessarily true and that his formula does not produce an "historical fact" in individual cases; in fact, he discusses its limitations and pitfalls at much greater length than is possible here. The point is that by applying such an unorthodox method in historical research, and by borrowing further from the statistician's manual in using calculated compensatory factors, it is possible to obtain significant information which is substantially accurate from sources which would otherwise remain unused.
If some of our more conventional (and less imaginative) scholars raise their eyebrows at that, they will be even more critical when they discover that the present study is based on a sampling process from beginning to end. The child-ladder method can of necessity be applied only to a comparatively small portion of the listed families (Dr. Lathrop's experience indicates about two-fifths), and it is limited chronologically by the availability of the census schedules only from 1850 through 1880. These are restrictions imposed by the source, but Dr. Lathrop has further confined his analysis to the censuses of 1850 and 1860 and to approximately half of the counties in the part of Texas east of the Trinity River. No one who has attempted any work of this kind could possibly find fault with such practical labor-saving limitations, especially in an exploratory venture such as this. One might prefer a solid block of counties within a smaller area instead of scattered counties throughout East Texas, but the author's explanation of his basis of selection should not be challenged without investigation comparable to his own. Final resolution of the question is to be found in extension of the project as far as possible in both time and area, perhaps with the aid of tabulating machines.

The method used on the sample chosen has produced more than enough new information on migration into East Texas to justify the experiment and to encourage others to extend its coverage. Much of the data obtained is presented in tables and charts. These are accompanied by a substantial explanatory account of the "Origins of the Immigrants," with shorter chapters on "Rates of Arrival" and "Sidelights." The text is concise and clearly written, but both it and the graphic material require careful study. Those who give them this will be well rewarded whether the volume is read for information about migration or, as suggested above, for its broader implications.

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Managers in Distress: The St. Louis Stage, 1840-1844. By William G. B. Carson. (St. Louis: St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1949, xv, 329. Illustrations, appendix, bibliography, and index. $6.00.)