

merchants. Thus fades away the metaphysics of Jesus but the ethics of the Sermon on the Mount is destined to live on." (April 20, 1919.)

"This morning I revisited the Criminal Court, where more than thirty years ago, I was the prosecutor. Now another judge sits upon the bench. The bench itself is new. Other reporters, other court officials, other policemen and detectives, other lawyers prosecuting and defending, other endless daily processions of accused. All is changed. No, not all. The smell is the same." (October 19, 1933.)

My feeling is that any thoughtful reader will find *The Journal of Max Ehrmann* to be very stimulating and valuable.
Selma, Alabama William O. Lynch

Sixty-One Years in the School Room. By Lawrence Hurst. (Boston: Meador Publishing Company, 1952, pp. 255. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Professor Hurst's autobiography, which is dedicated to his wife, Mabel, and his mother, Elizabeth (he has no children) falls into two major divisions. In the first, constituting about two-thirds of the book, he reviews the highlights of his career as a student, rural school teacher, high school teacher and administrator, and college instructor in the social sciences. Thirty-five years were spent in the latter capacity, including seven at Stout Institute in Wisconsin, and twenty-four at Ball State Teachers College.

The second division consists of ten chapters describing extensive travels, largely by automobile, in North America and Europe. With the exception of visits to the Scandinavian countries and Russia, the material in general reflects the usual reactions of tourists who are covering a lot of territory in a short time. The exact cost of having automobile bearings replaced in Georgia in 1927 seems of no particular significance, to mention one trivial detail which is included.

Doubtless in an effort to avoid pedantry, the author attempts a kind of journalistic style, particularly in the selection of chapter headings, such as "Aged in the Wood-Shed," "Curricular Activities," "Isaac [*sic*] Waltons," "Insouciance Abroad," and "Throwing the Bull." Some readers will feel that in an effort to write in a popular vein, the author goes in too much for earthy stories and allusions, of which the following is an example:

I got caught in the branches and tore the seat of my pants. . . . As I sat there, the teen-agers, sitting on the ground, endured a long time photostatic exposure. As I viewed the situation, everything was just a little behind in the twigs. (p. 83)

At times the vocabulary and sentence structure, as illustrated by the following excerpts, may invite criticism from academicians and journalists alike:

"In our school we had a character which we nicknamed Buck." (p. 37)

"When I said he had the right pig by the ear, he took me up to the Y.M.C.A. headquarters at the main building." (p. 58)

"When a boy, fox hunters used to pass our house." (p. 80)

"One evening, as we were leaving the State House where we were working my pal and I accidentally fell in with this little Miss." (p. 120)

The author disclaims any intention of writing an educational history or a philosophical treatise. Nevertheless, the chapters dealing with the rural schools of Clark County, Illinois, his delightful sojourn at New Harmony, and his reactions to collegiate instructors and school administrators constitute outstanding features of the book, in the opinion of the reviewer.

He rates his instructors at the Indiana State Normal School, as the best observed, on the whole, of any college attended. He considers President William W. Parsons "intellectual, imperious, able and often petty" and a master in his field of history and philosophy of education. He declares that Vice President Howard Sandison had a limited formal education "but his erudition was so varied and deep that some of our college presidents of today would not know what he was talking about." Hurst also speaks highly of his instructors in Latin, mathematics, and history.

As a graduate student he studied under a galaxy which included Clarence W. Alvord, Solon J. Buck, Carl R. Fish, Evarts B. Greene, James W. Garner, Samuel B. Harding, Amos Hershey, J. Franklin Jameson, Dana C. Munro, Albert H. Lybyer, David Muzzey, Frederic L. Paxson, Elihu Root, W. S. Robertson, Robert Schuyler, Ulysses G. Weatherley, and James A. Woodburn. Alvord influenced him the most because of the objectivity, industry, and perseverance which "kept him in pursuit of a problem till he found the answer." Paxson is con-

sidered the best lecturer of the group. He praises Woodburn for his inspiring teaching and wholesome liberalism. He also speaks highly of Garner, Jameson, Harding, and Greene.

The author had considerable experience in public school administration but chose college teaching for a variety of considerations, one being his low opinion of administrators, whom he did not find to be "either particularly honorable or honest" because of the necessity of being politicians first and schoolmen second. On the college level he saw many men and women discharged:

. . . The charges against them were petty and personal in nearly every case. My observance has been that the best teachers are more likely to lose their positions than the mediocre ones, though not as likely to lose them as the poorest teachers. (p. 46)

While *Sixty-One Years in the School Room* is not likely to win the acclaim of Eggleston's *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*, it will be enjoyed by countless teachers whose careers have had much in common with that of Lawrence Hurst. The casual reader will profit vicariously by the accounts of the spelling bees, box suppers, square dances, fox hunts, and other activities popular in the Wabash Valley at the turn of the century, not to mention such northern Wisconsin pastimes as birling, ice skating, fishing, and canoeing. Women readers doubtless will approve the final paragraph in which the author affirms that if he could be married a hundred times, he would marry Mabel every time.

Northern Michigan College of Education

Max P. Allen

With Rod and Transit, The Engineering Career of Thomas S. McNair (1824-1901). By James B. McNair. (Los Angeles, California: Published by the author, 818 South Ardmore Avenue, 1951, pp. xv, 267. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

This collection of somewhat disconnected information concerning the genealogy, religious background, "masonic career" and other seemingly more important aspects of the life of this admirable early American engineer and mine manager is apparently a labor of love of one of his descendants. It appears to be a conscientious effort to record with plentiful documentation the significant details of the career of one's highly esteemed forebear, particularly the facts that add luster to the family name.