the phrase "but in the opinion of the author" appearing in a footnote was almost startling.

In the opinion of this reviewer, some of the best writing of the entire series appears in the present volume. Especially is this true of the first five chapters by James Lea Cate, which deal with the China-based raids. Lee Bowen's account of the siege of Myitkyina is superb, as are parts of Frank Futrell's description of the Leyte campaign. The last chapter by Cate and Wesley Frank Craven, concerning the atom bomb, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the surrender, and an appraisal, is a distinct style departure. It is as if all other chapters and the previous volumes had been written by military historians for military men. Cate and Craven's final chapter in this volume, "Victory," is written by military historians for civilians.

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**Zachary Taylor, Soldier in the White House.** By Holman Hamilton. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1951, pp. 496. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. $6.00.)

In this day those who seek political offices travel far and wide and deliver numerous speeches to win their goal. Yet, over a hundred years ago a planter and soldier who had no political aspirations and who had never even voted, became the favorite candidate of the masses for the highest office in the land, and was elected without having either toured the country or delivered a speech. Many reasons for this warrior's going into the White House could be cited, but suffice it to say that Zachary Taylor regarded politics not as a "highroad to power and glory, but rather as a path to be followed reluctantly to the place where a citizen could perform a service."

Holman Hamilton in this second volume of his biography of Taylor has carefully traced the steps of "Old Rough and Ready" from planting and soldiering into politics. His meticulous digging has produced a biography of outstanding merits. Most of Taylor's papers were destroyed during the Civil War and the _Congressional Globe_ and other related sources had to be studied with care. Hamilton's search revealed
the authorship of the Allison Letters. A preliminary draft of
the first letter was prepared by Logan Hunton, James Love,
and Bailey Peyton at Baton Rouge in April, 1848. It was dis-
cussed with Taylor and he "agreed to sign a letter incorporat-
ing 'what he had said & no more.'" Thereupon Hunton com-
posed "the most important document of the preconvention cam-
paign," but insisted that the "letter must be in Taylor's hand-
writing." The second Allison Letter was written by Alexander
Bullitt at East Pascagoula, Mississippi, on September 4, 1848.
"This product of Taylor's pen was his only significant stroke
during the first three weeks of September."

One so inexperienced in the political world as President
Taylor could not please everybody. Hamilton claims that
Taylor's mistakes upon the whole were errors in "language
and not in policy." "Old Zack" was well aware of his short-
comings and frequently remarked that he preferred his plant-
ing duties to the Presidency. The author feels also that the
planter and soldier has been misjudged because of the "sup-
posedly baffling contrast between what his background in-
dicated he would do and what he actually did." Some writers
have criticized Taylor because he owned slaves—"speculating
why an investor in such property proved so stanch a Unionist."
Taylor was "nationally minded; private economic interests
never oversloughed his devotion to the Union."

A third fact which has confused some interpreters is the
contradictory support given the General in 1848. Hamilton
is of the opinion that if "Old Rough and Ready" had "broadcast
what he thought and felt about every issue disturbing
the nation, he could not have been elected." A fourth aspect,
"not firmly grasped," was the origin of the President's Plan.
The fifth and last misinterpretation is closely related to the
first two. "He was more than a successful soldier. Rough
and ready in battle, he exemplified in peace an attractive
mingling of Virginia gentility and frontier earthiness. Stormy
when aroused to anger, he was calm, considerate, modest,
patient in the majority of his contacts. At times he failed to
assert himself. And his most damaging tactical error lay
in his reluctance to dismiss his ministers. But, just as he
developed as a soldier, he improved as a political leader,
gaining confidence from day to day."

Throughout the second volume, Hamilton has portrayed
the qualities of the soldier-president and has expressed con-
viction that Taylor was a "'strong executive' in the Jacksonian sense, when illness came to carry him off." In the production of this biography, Hamilton has made a significant contribution to the field of history.

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Elfrieda Lang

**The Hoosier Training Ground; A History of Army and Navy Training Centers, Camps, Forts, Depots, and Other Military Installations Within the State Boundaries During World War II.** Compiled by Dorothy Riker. (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana War History Commission, 1952, pp. xiv, 381. Illustrations and index. $5.00.)

Many significant stories of interest to Indianians have been brought together within this volume. Probably every Hoosier knows more or less about some of these developments; but few will have knowledge of the combined effect of all the government construction programs in Indiana during the second World War. The building of Camp Atterbury, Wakesman Hospital, Baer Field, Bunker Hill Naval Air Station, Freeman Field, and Billings General Hospital is described in short chapters devoted to training installations. Among the military depots and proving grounds dealt with, Miss Riker has assembled chapters on Crane Naval Ammunition Depot, Indianapolis Chemical Warfare Depot, Jeffersonville Quarter-master Depot, Terre Haute Ordnance Depot, and the Jefferson Proving Ground. Miss Riker wrote ten of the chapters, Professor Lynn W. Turner of Indiana University five, May E. Arbuckle and Richard Simons one each.

Few will realize that the federal government poured one billion dollars into the hills of Martin County or that approximately one-fortieth the entire value of the United States Navy is to be found within the confines of Crane Naval Ammunition Depot. Fifty-six thousand acres in Jefferson, Jennings, and Ripley counties were incorporated in the Jefferson Proving Ground for the testing of explosives. The miracles of speedy construction, the building that took place before Pearl Harbor in order to make the United States an arsenal of democracy, and the quickness with which these institutions were put to work are all revealed in the various chapters. The reader will understand more realistically why war costs so much.