

probably not built at Marietta after 1820. A short paragraph, based on Hulbert's article in the *American Historical Review* (XXI, 720), would have been most useful here.

One might continue this game of minor criticism (why Governor Ethan Allen Brown is not pictured and why hex signs on Pennsylvania barns are), but this writer is in the mood of praising the work of authors, editorial staff, and craftsmen, for producing a thoroughly satisfying book.

Denison University

William T. Utter

Michigan in Four Centuries. By F. Clever Bald. (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1954, pp. xiii, 498. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, and index. \$4.00.)

For some time, Michigan has needed a general history for both student and non-student. There have been available an ably written college text and several elementary chronologies or histories. The testamentary bequest of John M. Munson, who was long active in Michigan education, provided that a history of the state be published as well as a history of education in Michigan. This fund was placed under the trusteeship of the Michigan Historical Commission which selected F. Clever Bald as the author for such a project.

The writing of a general history is a difficult task. Because of its very nature it tends to satisfy fully very few. The professional historian has his special fields of interest and they are seldom if ever covered to the extent or detail of his desire. Even the general reader has local interests and topical prejudices which he often thinks the author should have expanded more completely. Bearing all of these items in mind, *Michigan in Four Centuries* is a very good general history of the state of Michigan.

One factor which is designed to intrigue and invite the general reader is the liberal use of illustrative materials. Not only are there a substantial number of photographs, but there are also interspersed among the pages a very interesting group of pen drawings by William Thomas Woodward on subjects for which there are no photographs available. Thus is filled a gap, often found in many general histories, which is usually very annoying to the non-professional reader.

The photographs themselves are largely a new selection and must not have been used previously in publications. This gives the book a fresh appeal; it is evident that the selection was based on the text of the book, rather than determined by pictorial material readily available.

There are ten maps included, all of which were executed for this book and, therefore, are integrated with its text rather than being photostats or modifications of existing maps produced for another purpose. This, again, gives clarity to the text and provides a basis of understanding for the reader.

Bald is to be commended for the intellectual and moral courage needed to write on the more recent past, where the opinions of many readers are rather pronounced and prejudices tend to run strong. Nearly one half of the book deals with the period from the Civil War's beginning to contemporary times. The most common fault of many general histories is that the early period is treated extensively while the area of controversy of more recent years is carefully avoided. Bald has dealt extensively with the more recent past, both with facts and with judgment in selecting fields to be covered. The greatest growth of Michigan has taken place during this past century, both in population, material and economic development, and institutional and cultural flowering. It is encouraging to read a book for the general reader that is balanced in time and balanced in perspective of the relative importance of the subjects covered. The first chapter, with the intriguing title, "When Elephants Walked in Michigan," gives an introduction to the geology and physical history of the state. The twenty-nine additional chapters range from Indians to "Armorer to the United Nations." The economic and social history are given significant emphasis, and in an interesting rather than a dutiful manner. Politics and politicians are not eliminated by any means, and their struggles, achievements, and failures are continued up to the very last chapter.

The including of the chronology is a very real benefit to either the student or the casual reader. Yet, of course, it is a pitfall for the author. Almost every reader will know of things from his experience, his locality, or his travels that he feels should not have been omitted. For instance, the "Griffin," the upper Lakes' first sailing ship, and its voyage of 1679 is of

significance to many. Similarly, the coming of the telegraph to the state, the events of the Civil War, and the coming of the first railroad car ferry in 1869, are matters of interest and curiosity, I am sure, to certain readers. Yet, the chronology is good and is probably already longer than the author would wish.

The bibliography is entitled, "A Selected List of Books on Michigan History." It makes no attempt to be an exhaustive bibliography, or to describe the character and scope of the several titles. It is a reading list of general interest on the subject, of titles which might be expected to be found in many local libraries. It is, therefore, tailored for its anticipated reader—to be an asset rather than a source of frustration. The index of fourteen pages should prove very adequate for the students and general public for whom the book was intended.

I feel that this book will fulfill the hopes of Munson, who made it possible, and the expectations of the Historical Commission of Michigan, who selected the author and fostered the publication.

Detroit Historical Commission

Henry D. Brown

The People's Health: A History of Public Health in Minnesota to 1948. By Philip D. Jordan. (St. Paul, Minnesota: Minnesota Historical Society, 1953, pp. xii, 524. Illustrations and index. \$5.00.)

Through the interest and generosity of the Mayo Association, Philip D. Jordan was provided with the opportunity to write *The People's Health*, a history of Minnesota's public health program. The writer, an established author and historian, expresses his own basic ideas on the subject by quoting from a recent national report which declares: "Health is not the mere absence of disease but a positive state of body and mind, conducive to full and productive life"; and from Henry I. Bowditch who said that public health is "the most important matter with which any community could concern itself."

The People's Health tells about the unfolding of a great public enterprise in Minnesota. It gives an account of the continuous expansion of the effectiveness and range of sanitary science and preventive medicine. The reader is