

between farming and laboring groups. The inadequate attention given by American historians to the role of the urban community is illustrated in this volume by the superficial analysis of the dominance by the business interests of the Twin Cities of the economic life of North Dakota. At the least Mildred Hartsough's *The Development of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul) as a Metropolitan Market* (1925) is worthy of mention in the bibliography.

Beginning with brief discussions of several factors which produced in North Dakota fertile soil for an agrarian protest movement, the author describes the political successes of the league in North Dakota, the implementation of its program, the attempt to become a national party, the development of factions within the league, and, finally, the factors which led to its decline. Abuses in the grain-marketing process, high freight rates, and usurious interest rates are listed among the developments which led to the formation of the league. The involvement of the United States in World War I, the inability to shake off the Socialist label, the eclipse of Townley as the leader, the enactment of a portion of its program, and the growing tendency to look to the federal government for help instead of to the state capital are proposed as some of the causes which led to the decline of the movement. The greatest value of the book lies in its detailed treatment of a significant political movement. Both value and attractiveness are enhanced by several illustrations which are the product of the distaff side of the author's household.

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Fond Recollection, Sketches of Old Louisville. By Melville O. Briney. (Louisville: *Louisville Times*, 1955, pp. 146. Illustrations and index. \$2.00.)

Melville Otter Briney is an experienced writer. She was born in Louisville and educated at Vassar and Columbia University School of Journalism. As Melville Otter she joined the staff of the *Courier-Journal* in 1925. The following year she married Russell Briney and for the next two decades confined her activities to family, social, and civic affairs. In 1948 she re-entered the field of journalism, contributing a weekly article on "Old Louisville" to the editorial page of the *Louisville Times*. These informal sketches proved of such interest to the public and contained matter of such value to succeeding generations that Barry Bingham, owner of the

Courier-Journal and the *Louisville Times*, decided to incorporate forty-eight of them in a book. Selection must have been difficult from a seven years' supply of worthwhile articles.

Fond Recollection is not a historical treatise but a series of portraits of Louisville life in the eighteen-eighties and early nineties. There are occasional throwbacks to earlier years, and glimpses ahead of World War I. Its greatest appeal is to old residents and their children, many of them now living afar. However, students everywhere will find it of value because statements are founded on fact, many of the persons and events described are of national importance, and the period surveyed is one of extraordinary local and national expansion, both economic and cultural.

The book is divided into four parts: "Places," "People," "Events," and "I Remember." Of the first three parts, Mrs. Briney writes in the Foreword, "More than to any other person, I am indebted to my father, John D. Otter, who before his death in 1950 told me many entrancing stories of the people, places and events depicted in this book. If I have been able to recapture to any degree the flavor and charm of the city of his youth, it is because of him." She has succeeded in this endeavor as she presents with vividness, accuracy, and humor, vanishing or changed buildings, streets and neighborhoods; prominent characters, including world-famous authors, actors, and eccentrics; and significant and unusual happenings of a former generation.

In the fourth part Mrs. Briney portrays her own childhood and youth, and again "recaptures the flavor and charm of the city." Her account of home life in St. James Court, a beautiful residential section, is delightful. Young and old will appreciate the descriptions of clubs and parties, of dancing school with closing exhibition at the famous old Macaulay's Theatre and of a notable Christmas when Santa brought the little girl an ermine muff. The final chapter is a poignant account of activities connected with World War I and the departure of one's boy friends for "over there."

The twenty-six attractive, black and white illustrations by Edwin Finch, a well-known Louisville artist, highlight special features of the book.

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