on the Olmstead manuscripts commits him. Contemporary opinion on the South and on slavery rested largely on Olmstead, and his persuasions are not absent from Maxwell's book. It is only fair to say that Maxwell has not sufficient material from other sources to enable him to exercise the historian's right of sitting in judgment.

In style the book is in the tradition of those who consider Parkman to be the greatest American historian. It is exceptionally well written for one forged from a mass of research data rather than from long experience and love of the field.

For informative content the book is very much worth while. Through it the lover of detail can go to a great battlefield and see the terrible aftermath of battle. He can also get a good idea of how everyday details were handled in the army: sanitation, mess, medication, etc. Those interested in the clash with politics, the impact of personalities, and the battle royal between Sanitary Commission and Christian Commission will also be well rewarded.

There are areas where one would like more information from the materials used even at the expense of going beyond the scope of the book. For instance, more on the struggle to control the policies of the administration might have been added, and also more on the clash of East-West sectionalism. Because of the nature of the materials used, the history of the Commission as written by Maxwell must of necessity be Eastern, and the author does not challenge Eastern priority. More about Frank Blair would have been pertinent. Henry J. Raymond seems to act out of pattern. What is behind it? New England proponents complain of the selfishness of the Pennsylvanians, and say that there is a large Philadelphia contingent in the affairs of the Commission. One would like to know more of the political implications of this charge.

DePauw University

A. W. Crandall


Although a relatively large number of books have been written about the Wisconsin Idea, Wisconsin Progressivism,
and Robert M. La Follette, Professor Maxwell's book is a welcome addition. Its acceptance is not based upon new information but upon the meticulous research and the objectivity of its presentation. The book, a revised doctoral dissertation, deals with the development and results of the progressive movement in the Badger State during the period 1900-1915.

Wisconsin Progressivism was a volatile, many-sided, intra-party movement which grew out of the political unrest and the economic adversities of the last decades of the nineteenth century. The Progressives, generally speaking, were composed of disgruntled farmers, maladjusted industrial workers, and a sprinkling of middle-class intellectuals. In 1900 Wisconsin was experiencing population shifts and urbanization. Two-thirds of her population, the author states, were either foreign born or the children of foreign born parents.

Like many other reformers, La Follette fought the conservative bosses in the state machine. Once in power, he created the La Follette machine with La Follette as Wisconsin's most powerful political boss. For several years “Fighting Bob” dominated the Progressive movement in Wisconsin. The split between the liberals came in 1912 when La Follette made his great blunder in a speech at Philadelphia. Indeed, Woodrow Wilson won a plurality in Wisconsin in 1912 due, as the author shows, to the split between Roosevelt and La Follette.

Governor La Follette began the practice of delivering his messages to the legislature in person. At first not very successful in his program of reforms, he was re-elected twice and succeeded in getting his program through the legislature. As revealed by Maxwell, the Progressive program included greatly increased taxes upon and more regulation of the transportation companies, a more equitable tax structure based on various types of property and income, changes in the policies of insurance companies in the state, a veritable revolution in dairying, and civil service for state employees. Such a program of centralization required the creation of many commissions. Extensive use was made of the University of Wisconsin faculty, especially of the staff in agriculture, economics, and sociology.

The author points out the defects of the Badger State type of Progressivism. The initiative, referendum, and recall
were not included, nor was woman suffrage. There were evil by-products of La Follette's reform program, including wasteful bureaucracy, excessive costs, and the University in the center of state politics.

The author has been an objective observer and has written with a scholarly detachment which is refreshing. This book is a significant addition to the large amount of literature already published on the Progressive movement.

University of Florida

George C. Osborn


A dozen volumes have thus far appeared in "The Library of American Biography," edited by Professor Oscar Handlin of Harvard, and the present book, Dexter Perkins' Charles Evans Hughes and American Democratic Statesmanship, is one of the latest in the series. The purpose of these short readable volumes is to catch the interest of nonprofessional readers, and also to boil down for busy students a number of more technical and lengthy biographies currently available. "The Library of American Biography" has dealt with such figures as Ulysses S. Grant, Elihu Root, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel F. B. Morse, Daniel Webster, William Lloyd Garrison, and Woodrow Wilson. In accord with the "idea" approach to history, now so popular, each biography distills out of its subject's life a connection with a basic idea in American society, such as the American military tradition (Grant), the conservative tradition (Root), national conservatism (Webster), or American democratic statesmanship (Hughes).

Because of the skill of the authors and editor of this series, it is difficult to find any point of criticism in the execution of the series' avowed purpose. In the case of Charles Evans Hughes and American Democratic Statesmanship, the book traces the obvious phases of Hughes' public career: Hughes and New York politics (1905-1910), associate justice of the Supreme Court (1910-1916), the presidential campaign of 1916, the League fight (1916-1921), secretary of state (1921-1925), Hughes as chief justice (1930-1944), with special attention to the effort by President Franklin D.