Every House a Frontier: Detroit's Economic Progress, 1815-1825. By Floyd R. Dain. (Detroit: Wayne University Press, 1956. Pp. viii, 168. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. $3.50).

The subtitle suggests the scope of this well-documented monograph on Detroit's economy. The author begins with "Detroit in 1815," devotes chapters to "Transportation and Communication," "The Settlement of the Hinterland," "Currency and Exchange," "Commerce and Industry," and concludes with a brief eulogy of Yankee achievement under the title, "Detroit at the Close of 1825." In competent fashion Mr. Dain defines the problems confronting the community (dependable transportation, an adequate local food supply, and a stable currency) and describes their solution.

The period under consideration has special interest because it concerns Detroit's transition from a leisurely, French, fur-trading, garrison village to a bustling, Yankee, commercial town. The inevitable cultural conflict involved, while not explicitly treated, is frequently suggested in the author's generous use of contemporary strictures upon the *habitant.* He was "shiftless" and "lacking in ambition." "He wasted . . . his time in idleness and amusement." Certainly his habits and values were not those of the New Englanders who were flocking to Detroit. And the migrant Yankee of the early nineteenth century was rarely tolerant of cultural patterns that differed from his own. A fuller treatment of the processes whereby the *habitant* relinquished or lost his Detroit lands would have been desirable.

Many more studies of this kind are needed. Definitive syntheses in urban history cannot be written until much more such spadework is done.

Indiana Historical Society Hubert H. Hawkins

The Critical Method in Historical Research and Writing. By Homer Carey Hockett. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1955. Pp. xv, 330. Bibliography and index. $5.00.)

Billed as a third edition of the author's well-known *Introduction to Research in American History,* this useful book is, as its preface admits, not only reorganized and largely