

lower schools; and much else, including the supply of the tools of education as a business. This is a mine of information about an extremely intricate feature of American life; it is also a guide through much of the confusion which comes with intricacy.

Occasionally, however, the book fails to do full justice to the complexity of the subject at hand, e.g. the work of the Committee of Ten on the high school curriculum. But the appearance of one-sided judgments is less disconcerting than the author's deliberate omission of a narrative account of the inward life of the NEA as distinct from its outward activity. By focusing on movements in which the NEA participated, the book succeeds completely in reminding the reader that educational institutions do not live in a vacuum but comes perilously close to being Hamlet without the soliloquies. The NEA *Proceedings* were, the author remarks, his most important single source: what do unpublished papers have to offer? Something is actually said about the inner story of the NEA—enough to suggest that its public role cannot be understood without full knowledge of its private life, enough to call simplistic judgments upon the NEA into serious question, but not enough to give more than glimpses of the NEA as a product of its history as an association of mortal beings. The historical study of American education can suffer as truly, if not as seriously, from a violent reaction against parochialism as from that preoccupation with intramural trivialities which the author obviously sought to avoid. His intention is praiseworthy, the result disappointing.

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A Dozen Captains of American Industry. By Walter Wilson Jennings. (New York: Vantage Press, 1955. Pp. viii, 229. Index. \$2.50.)

The material in this book and its predecessor volume, *Twenty Giants of American Business* (Exposition Press, 1953), was developed in a course in American Business Leaders at the University of Kentucky. The men discussed are Samuel Slater, William Gregg, Elias Howe, James B. Eads, George Westinghouse, Henry Clay Frick, William L. Douglas, Elbert H. Gary, Thomas Coleman DuPont, George Eastman, John Dennis Ryan, and Edward L. Doheny. The

author's objective is to state "the chief facts of each man's life, his contributions to business, the reasons for his success, and his ethical outlook in simple non-technical language that any high school student or adult can understand" (p. viii). It is his belief that the work will be helpful "as a supplemental text or reference reading for introductory business courses, economic history, industrial history, and courses dealing with business organization and business ethics, business leaders and business leadership" (p. ix) as well as to the general reader and to anyone engaged in business.

The sources used in the preparation of these sketches have been published books, articles, and newspapers, recent and contemporary, but manuscript materials such as the personal or business papers of the men concerned were not included. Each sketch is offered in a chronological narrative, and woven into each narrative is an assessment of the contribution of each man to business and economic development.

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