of communicants among whom are many important leaders of the capital city. The author's modesty in respect to his leadership in the church leaves this part of his history somewhat incomplete.

The illustrations are items of special interest. The frontispiece is a beautiful picture in color of the interior of Christ Church in 1953. Among excellent photographs of rectors, prominent members, and views of the church are five reproductions of graceful etchings by Frederick Polley, and two drawings by Christian Schrader. Among the more interesting illustrations are those of the Circle in 1873, the Old State House, and east and west Market streets. The author is to be congratulated upon having produced so fine a history.

_Indiana University_  

John D. Barnhart


There is no denying that James Whitcomb Riley remains, more than four decades after his death, a figure to conjure with. In the Hoosier heartland he is still a force, as Mr. Crowder makes clear in his prologue. There is a stop named for him on the Indiana Turnpike; there is a New York Central train named for him; there are Riley rooms in hotels and department stores in Indiana. Local poets still make their annual pilgrimage to his grave in Crown Hill Cemetery on crisp October afternoons at the time of his birthday.

Yet Riley is a poet whose works are taught in no college survey course in American literature. In grade schools where literary standards are lower children still read and recite his homespun verses, but for persons seriously concerned with literature he is a fossil in the quarries of nineteenth-century American taste. The problem that Mr. Crowder faced in writing this book was how to reconcile Riley the symbol with Riley the writer. As an academician himself, the biographer had to limn the Hoosier Hero without really thinking him a hero.

Mr. Crowder meets his problem squarely. He is concerned in _Those Innocent Years_ with picturing the idolized Riley against his Victorian backdrop. In essence, Riley's popularity, which even disarmed such perceptive critics as William Dean Howells, sprang from his native talent as an actor and his exploitation of Indiana people and places at a time when local color was a popular literary staple. Moreover, when Riley conquered the eastern fleshpots, Hoosier egos expanded vicariously. Riley reflected accurately the image of nineteenth-century, midwestern America that his public held of itself. He gave his readers what they wanted—easy optimism and cracker-barrel wisdom. He consciously and unconsciously averted his gaze from the problems of man's relationship to man or man's relationship to God, the context out of which enduring classics always have been written.
Mr. Crowder has written a brief, pleasant account of the Hoosier poet, holding up the mirror to Riley's life and times and getting an accurate image of the People's Poet; a complete study will have to wait until Riley's friends and relatives have passed from the scene. Crowder suggests the proper avenues for a deeper probing of Riley's personality. He deals gingerly with Riley's youthful lack of discipline, his antagonistic relationship with his father, his compulsive drinking, and psychosomatic ailments. These are matters that one would like to know more about. However, Mr. Crowder has written, as he intended, a narrative account of Riley and his times that will absorb Hoosiers who care for their state's past.

Butler University

James Woodress


The eighth edition of Here Is Your Indiana Government as published by the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce is again a good detailed presentation of facts about government in Indiana. Its stated purpose is to "encourage citizenship participation in public affairs."

Any collection of facts must of necessity have difficulty in holding the reader's interest. The arrangement of Here Is Your Indiana Government does much "sugar coating," thus tending to make palatable this tremendous quantity of detail.

The complexity of government is simplified as much as can be done while accurately indicating that Indiana's population growth and time have added many responsibilities to government, especially at the state level.

Here Is Your Indiana Government is a good source book for information regarding city, township, county, and state government. It also furnishes facts on the organization of Indiana's political parties as well as "Historical Highlights of Indiana's Governmental Development." One section is entitled "Hoosiers at Work."

The State Chamber was unable to resist the temptation to editorialize, and in the last four editions they have included an article by Clarence E. Manion, former dean of the University of Notre Dame College of Law, giving his interpretation of the basic principles of our American form of government. Some confusion could result from this should one take too literally the subhead, "A Book of Facts."

Indiana's very outstanding State Chamber of Commerce has prepared an excellent tool to present fairly Indiana's government in a brief, factual manner to either school children or adults who are making their initial contact with this knowledge or who need refreshing as to governmental detail.

Indiana University

Donald H. Clark