been written in the way of a connected account about the struggles that take place every four years for the presidency. Edward Stanwood's *History of the Presidency*, which comes closest to this, is outdated and has little to say about the elections of the twentieth century. Professor Roseboom's study fills the need of treating our presidential elections as distinguishable and as important events in our national history. His objective is "to present the essential facts about conventions, campaigns, and elections, briefly to assess the effectiveness of Presidents and other important party figures as political leaders, to indicate the more significant Congressional struggles of a political character, and to explain the trends of politics in the social and economic settings of the different periods, with particular attention to change."

This was a formidable task, but Professor Roseboom has done very well indeed, and has produced a very useful volume that will long serve the needs of all those interested in American politics. The book is a convenient summary of the main developments of presidential politics, and in general it reflects the latest and best scholarship on these matters. While the book is a popular account that will have a greater interest and use for the general reader and for the undergraduate, it will be a handy reference for the serious student of American politics. Everyone will enjoy the lively manner in which it has been written, and everyone can profit from the selective bibliography that Professor Roseboom has prepared.

The problem of emphasis and selection was a very difficult one in writing this book, and Professor Roseboom anticipated criticism on this point. Overall he has done very well in solving this problem, but the book might have been even more useful had he given greater attention and care to the really significant and meaningful elections like those of 1800, 1828, 1860, 1912, and 1932. In all of these there was a meaningful division of the parties, and the voters were presented with fundamental differences in political issues and questions. The treatment of these elections in the same way as the other elections is one shortcoming of this book.

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The title for the centennial edition of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, *Created Equal*, is timely indeed. It immediately brings into focus the position of the Negro in 1958 as well as 1858. Mr. Paul Angle, who edited the volume, feels the arguments of the debaters evolved around three questions: the extension of slavery, the status of the Negro, and the rights of the states to regulate the Negro's status as they saw fit. However, one must admit that all three of the subjects have a common denominator, which is the Negro.
The wordage of the seven formal debates follows the version in the Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Paul M. Angle, which gives what may be termed the authoritative text a much wider circulation. A thirty-two page introduction furnishes background data, and to further orient the reader in the debates as a whole Angle has included: the speech made by Lincoln at Springfield on June sixteenth, the speeches of both Lincoln and Douglas at Chicago on July ninth and tenth respectively, and the addresses of both men at Springfield on the same day, July seventeenth, Douglas in the afternoon and Lincoln in the evening. The preliminaries leading up to the debates and also observations by the press at each meeting are presented.

The reviewer at one time made a synopsis outline of the arguments in each of the seven debates and he was struck by the constant repetition. Angle in the preface of his book states, "In the debates there was much repetition," and again concludes, "Douglas covered much the same ground" as he had on a previous occasion. In this day when condensation in literature is so popular it is to be regretted that we do not have the repeats expurgated and a summary of what each debater had to say on these and other pertinent subjects which were under discussion: Compromise Measures, Dred Scott, Extension of Slavery, House Divided, Kansas-Nebraska, Moral Issue, Popular Sovereignty, Pro-Slavery Conspiracy, Racial Equality, Sectional Party. This would allow the reader to survey all the evidence on any one subject which would help to answer the question raised by Angle, "Who 'Won' the Debates?"

The fact that Lincoln instead of Douglas was anxious to spread the argument before the people in printed form; the fact that the people through the ballot gave Lincoln the majority of the popular vote; and that he ultimately gained the presidency—all would be considerations when the round by round points are recorded in an analysis of the results.

Lincoln National Life Foundation

Louis A. Warren


It is now almost axiomatic to speak of the diversity in the South, of the vast differences in the dialects, the regions, and the peoples of the section, even in the pre-Civil War era. Miss Jones's selections from the diaries, journals, and letters of the residents of and visitors to those "Souths" is again a sharp reminder of this fact. For here in an endeavor to recapture only a segment of the pre-war South, the Plantation South, the variety within the area is more noticeable than the similarity. In a limited way the author seems to recognize this variegation by dividing her book into three main parts, one each for the tobacco, rice, and cotton South. Although a convenient arrangement, it is nonetheless a somewhat artificial one. While there were distinctions between the rice planter of the South Carolina coastal lands and the tobacco farmer of the Kentucky Bluegrass, the difference in geo-