

the peculiar and wonderful advantages of *country* [italics Marryat's] when we examine America and its form of government; for the country has had more to do with upholding this democracy than people might at first imagine" (p. 43). By *country* he meant "the vast extent and boundless resources of the territory" (p. 44).

Though Marryat enjoyed his tour, and his enjoyment is infectious, he was more favorably impressed with the natural resources and the scenic beauty of the United States (waterfalls fascinated him) than with the pushy, egalitarian Americans themselves. Eminently readable, his *Diary* is also very quotable and not ephemeral.

Professor Zanger's job of editing is extremely helpful. He does however make an error in the identification of Gros Cap (p. 320, note 4). The Gros Cap described by Marryat is the Gros Cap of Lake Superior about ten miles west of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and not the Gros Cap of Lake Michigan. Zanger includes a critical introduction of excellent quality in which he corrects earlier misinterpretations of Marryat's itinerary and offers a sound estimate of the historical and literary value of the *Diary*.

Purdue University

G. G. Hatheway

Louis Agassiz: A Life in Science. By Edward Lurie. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1960. Pp. xiv, 449. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$7.50.)

Edward Lurie, a trained historian, has used the techniques of his craft to prepare this satisfying full-length biography of the Swiss-born zoologist who became one of the leaders of science in the United States in the middle of the nineteenth century. Agassiz was educated in the best European universities, a friend of Cuvier and von Humboldt, and had a world-wide reputation for his studies of fossil fish and for his brilliant exposition of the action of glaciers as a geological force. In 1846 he was invited to Boston to deliver a series of lectures at Lowell Institute. He soon attracted such favorable attention as a well-informed scientist who could be understood by laymen that he was appointed professor of geology in the new Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard College. From his Boston friends Agassiz soon secured funds with which to begin research for a multivolume account of the zoology of America, initiate a study of fishes, and establish a museum for the study of comparative anatomy. For Agassiz the latter meant a collection of every kind of natural history object from all over the world.

Professor Lurie pictures Agassiz as a skillful teacher, an administrator, and researcher who started many projects on so large a scale that they were never completed, and as a person engaged in frequent controversy with his students and associates over credit for discoveries. Yet at the same time he is shown as possessed with the breadth of vision necessary to initiate the broad-scale development of scientific study and research in the United States. In cooperation with a handful of other top-flight scientists, Agassiz was most influential in securing government and private financial support and in putting competent

men in positions of leadership. During the Civil War, Agassiz and his friends succeeded in founding the National Academy of Sciences as the chief scientific body in the nation.

So busy was Agassiz, however, that he did not keep up with the thinking of his fellow scientists, and for a long time he rejected the new views of Darwin on evolution and held to his own belief in special creation. But his cogent arguments in opposition helped to bring about a reaffirmation of Darwin's views. In general, as Lurie points out, scientific leadership in America passed from Agassiz' hands as a result of his stand. Agassiz' lasting monument is the Museum of Comparative Anatomy at Cambridge, Massachusetts, which is today what Agassiz envisioned—a great and well-ordered teaching museum of natural history.

Professor Lurie develops all these facets of the life of Agassiz, and more. The University of Chicago Press has provided a handsome format, worthy of the important contribution this book makes to the history of science in the United States.

MacMurray College

Walter B. Hendrickson

John Coit Spooner: Defender of Presidents. By Dorothy Ganfield Fowler. (New York: University Publishers, 1961. Pp. ix, 436. Frontispiece, bibliographical notes, index. \$6.00.)

Professor Dorothy Ganfield Fowler's biography of John Coit Spooner is a sympathetic but objective study of a lawyer and statesman now almost forgotten. In the late 1890's and during the first six or seven years of the twentieth century, Spooner was one of that small inner circle of United States senators known as "The Four," who dominated the Senate and exercised unusual influence over the legislative and executive branches of the federal government.

Beginning with Spooner's family background and his early years in his native Lawrenceburg, Indiana, Mrs. Fowler traces his life in a chronological sequence of events which includes his student years at the University of Wisconsin, his military service during the Civil War, his career as a railroad attorney in Wisconsin, his sixteen years in the Senate, his opposition to the rise of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., and his final years of legal practice in New York City following his resignation from the Senate in 1907 until his death in 1919.

Readers of this biography who are familiar with the history of the period of Spooner's service in the Senate and with recent studies, published and unpublished, of some of his contemporaries can hardly escape the thought that "conservatives," such as Spooner, W. B. Allison, and S. B. Elkins, were not so reactionary, nor "progressives," such as Albert J. Beveridge, Jonathan P. Dolliver, and Albert B. Cummins, so radical as they seemed to be half a century ago. Spooner, to be sure, was a conservative, but, as Mrs. Fowler ably demonstrates, he was not the "tool" of the railroads or of any other special interest, and Lincoln Steffens did him a grave and unwarranted injustice to include him