

compensation, those readers who have not already done so are urged to acquaint themselves with the selectively comprehensive, one-volume collection of Larkin papers edited by John A. Hawgood—*First and Last Consul* (1962). Hawgood's work is based for the most part on material deposited in the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, and is a mandatory supplement to Hammond's great undertaking.

Three volumes remain to be published in *The Larkin Papers*. None of the eight volumes thus far published has an index. Researchers will particularly appreciate the editor's capstone, Volume XI, for it will contain a general index and a biographical dictionary of all persons mentioned in the *Papers*.

San Jose State College

Ted C. Hinckley

Prohibition and the Progressive Movement, 1900-1920. By James H. Timberlake. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1963. Pp. 238. Illustrations, notes, index. \$5.25.)

Historical myths sometimes die a slow death. One myth long held by Americans and many of their historians is that prohibition was a singularly conservative measure, promoted primarily by fanatical rural drys. In this little book, a happy combination of good scholarship and good writing, James Timberlake has snuffed out this notion by finding, as it were, the proper home for prohibition. He argues that prohibition was an integral part of progressivism; indeed, it was one of the more important (and least understood) reforms of the Progressive movement. Essentially a middle-class reform, deeply rooted in the American reform tradition, prohibition cut across geographic and class lines. It was successfully stitched into the Constitution, not merely because of the astute tactics of the Anti-Saloon League, but fundamentally because it was buttressed by the moral, economic, social, and political idealism of progressivism itself.

Thus, argues Timberlake, if progressivism was founded on a belief in the moral law, so was prohibition, which sought to eliminate from commerce an article that was believed to destroy man's reason, paralyze his moral nature, and undermine the very foundation of religion and political democracy. If progressivism was an attempt to limit the power of an industrial and financial plutocracy, prohibition aimed to smash the liquor industry—one of the most corrupting branches of that plutocracy—with its intimate ties to commercialized vice and political machines. If progressivism represented a crusade for humanitarianism, so did prohibition, which held that liquor was a primary cause for poverty, crime, disease, misery, and broken homes. And, finally, if progressivism sought to elevate and improve the status of the lower classes, prohibition attempted to uplift them by banishing intemperance, believed to be of critical importance in stunting the rise of the working-man and the "Americanization" of the immigrant.

Timberlake is not so unsophisticated as to believe that all progressives were cut out of the same cloth. Prohibition appealed largely to

the old-stock middle class; although it was supported by some labor groups, the urban-labor-immigrant progressives disliked the reform and fought it. The old-stock middle class won the contest, however, because it constituted the backbone of progressivism and held disproportionate political power. But the key point is not that the prohibition movement was either rural or urban but that it was a middle-class reform supported by middle-class Americans in *both* country and city. Moreover, it won that support because it was firmly embedded in the aspirations of the Progressive movement.

Thus came prohibition to the United States. Middle-class Americans—striving to revitalize and preserve American democracy and to usher in a new era of humanity, achievement, and progress—turned to prohibition as one device to achieve their goals. Little did they realize in 1920 the ugly ironies involved in a dry utopia.

This book, then, is indispensable to students of recent American history. It is at once a brilliant description of the mind and aims of the progressives and one of the best explanations of why this country adopted prohibition.

Purdue University

Alexander B. Callow, Jr.

Early American Homes for Today: A Treasury of Decorative Details and Restoration Procedures. By Herbert Wheaton Congdon. (Rutland, Vt.: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1963. Pp. xi, 236. Illustrations, glossary, index. \$12.50.)

The growing interest throughout America in restoring old houses and the need for technical advice on how to do it properly have resulted in a number of articles and books on the subject. Herbert Congdon's new book, addressed to what he calls "the do-it-yourself man," is an informative and attractive addition.

The volume contains a large number of good illustrations—all the houses pictured are apparently in Vermont—of exteriors as well as of interior details such as doors, windows, stairways, and mantels.

For most residents of Indiana the instructions will be of little help because very few of our old houses date as early as those discussed by the author. We have no Colonial architecture in the state, and examples of the Federal style (about 1800 to 1840) are very scarce. Had Congdon placed more emphasis on the Greek Revival types of the 1840's and 1850's, and had he pointed out their characteristic features in contrast to the Federal and the Georgian Colonial ones, the book would serve a wider audience, particularly in the Midwest.

In reading the book one cannot avoid making comparisons to Henry and Otalie Williams' work, *Old American Houses*, that appeared about six years ago and that tackles the same problem. For one thing, the Williamses prove how useful diagrams of constructional elements can be to the remodeler who is not an architect or a carpenter. Mr. Congdon's descriptions of how parts of a building are put together would be clearer to the average reader if more diagrams and detailed drawings accompanied the text.