from the point of view of faculty participation in college and university government; academic freedom and tenure for the faculty; and the "politics of higher education" in the state of Michigan. Also, the book barely touches on student life, particularly those aspects that are related to conditions of freedom for students viewed as campus citizens. Although the decade of the 1950's is discussed in some detail from the point of view of mounting enrollments, there is no mention of any manifestations of the McCarthy era on any of the Michigan campuses. Further, one can find no illumination in this book on the developing problem of institutional paternalism. Indeed, there is virtually nothing included in the book on the rapidly expanding sphere of power on college campuses of the office of the dean of students. Similarly missing from the scope of this book is any discussion of the origins and growth of bureaucracy in institutions of higher education in Michigan.

Avowedly written with the utilitarian aim of providing a useful resource for public policy formation, the book raises interesting questions of conceptual design which cannot be entertained in a brief review. Nonetheless, this far from definitive work is clearly and interestingly written and is bound to be very useful for the wide range of factual information which it contains.

Indiana University


The Nevada years are not an unknown segment of Mark Twain's biography and one might question if there were enough new facts or insights to justify a new book on the subject. There are not.

Professor Fatout hopes "to recreate, in part, Mark Twain's life in Washoe" with the aid of uncollected or unnoted materials, chiefly newspapers (p. xii). He has indeed dug deeply, though, upon assay, the vein is of poor yield. There just is not enough of Mark Twain's journalistic writing to make the effort deeply significant. A pity, for surely Twain wrote much and a close study of it all would surely tell us much about the man and his development as a writer. But the files of the Virginia City Enterprise, for which he wrote, do not exist for these years and though Twain once had personal archives of clippings and copies, he burned them. What Fatout does is to recover as much as possible from other western papers which copied the Enterprise. By this laborious process he has rescued a number of short items by Twain, none of them unusually exciting, plus some of dubious ancestry, which the author must label as "possibly written by Mark Twain," or "seem written in the spirit of Mark Twain," or "have a Twainian tone" (pp. 93, 154, 184).

Mark Twain's western years are narrated in a lively manner and the book should appeal to the general reader. There are large slices of local color, quite fascinating in themselves, though often the emphasis
is more on Nevada than on Mark Twain. Those with a more than general interest in Twain will find the recovered Twain items worth reading and will at the same time observe how often his humor is indistinguishable from that of contemporary journalists. Nor can one detect in these early writings any evidence of the rich and original things which later Twain was to do with this apprenticeship. Such a reader, too, will note the scattered evidence that Twain was not without personal blemish and that he was not even universally beloved. He did stir some men to deep affection and loyalty, but there were as many who disliked or detested him. Even after discounting for western exaggeration, one finds that the epithets keep their sting—"ass," "that silly idiot," "an erratic mind," "moral phenomenon," "consistent lying," "cunningness of egotism." The author is right to observe Twain's capacity for cultivating people, such as Artemus Ward, who could help him; he is also right to note several instances when Twain, who pulled many a joke and trick and hoax on others, could not always gracefully endure being gulled. Even this early in his life Mark Twain was a complex and many-sided being.

Indiana University

J. A. Robbins


The author suggests in the Preface two reasons for having written a biography of Harry Leon Wilson: first, it will serve as a reference for students of American literature, particularly American humor; and second, he hopes it will rescue this "popular writer" of the early 1900's from falling into obscurity. Dr. Kummer believes that the creator of such delightful characters as Bunker Bean, Ma Pettengill, Ruggles, Cousin Egbert, Professor Copplestone, and Merton Gill deserves to be remembered and enjoyed by readers of the modern generation.

Wilson began his career as a writer at an early age in his father's newspaper and printing office in Oregon, Illinois. Later he was employed by the Bancroft History Company to assist in the collection of materials for the company's multivolume historical series. During his free time Wilson taught himself the art of writing, using as a guide the country's foremost humor magazine, *Puck*. In 1892 Wilson joined the staff of that magazine and four years later assumed the editorship.

Wilson resigned his position with *Puck* in 1902 and retired to his wife's family home in Missouri to write. After the completion of three mediocre novels, he collaborated with Booth Tarkington in writing plays for provincial America. The first and most successful of these was *The Man from Home*. As interest in the "road" theater began to decline and competition from Broadway became greater, Wilson settled in Carmel and returned to writing comic novels. Here, between 1912 and 1925, he produced his best works: *Bunker Bean, Ruggles of Red Gap, Merton of the Movies, Oh, Doctor!* and *Professor How Could You!*