

Book Reviews

Natural Features of Indiana. Edited by Alton A. Lindsey. *Indiana Academy of Science Indiana Sesquicentennial Volume, 1816-1966.* (Indianapolis: Indiana Academy of Science, 1966. Pp. xxix, 600. Illustrations, figures, maps, tables, index. \$4.00.)

Science has played a key role in the development of modern civilization. It is therefore appropriate that the Indiana Academy of Science should participate in the sesquicentennial celebration of the State of Indiana, whose economic growth and development owe so much to the work of its scientists.

The academy's participation in this celebration took the form of a special symposium at Wabash College, followed by this commemorative volume in which the papers presented at that time are published. The papers summarize the present knowledge regarding the natural resources of the state and what is being done with and to these resources. Some forty-four scientists served as authors or coauthors of these papers. They came from fifteen colleges and universities in the state, as well as from governmental and other agencies, and included outstanding leaders in the various fields represented. These authors were asked to prepare their papers with the general public in mind so that the published version would be of widespread value to the citizens of Indiana. This they have done with considerable success.

The volume was edited by Alton A. Lindsey who also contributed the opening chapter dealing with the Indiana scene of 150 years ago. This furnishes a fitting background against which to measure and evaluate the changes that have occurred during the past century and a half.

The thirty-three chapters cover a wide range of subjects, the emphasis in all cases being on the natural environment. Thus, the broad fields of geology and geography, meteorology, biology, anthropology, forestry, and agriculture are stressed, whereas laboratory sciences, such as physics, chemistry, and mathematics are not included.

In the fields of geology and geography there are articles on bed-rock geology, the ice ages and their effect on the land, physiography, soils, lakes and streams, ground water, caves, and mineral resources. Chapters on climate and bioclimate follow. In the area of biology, chapters are devoted to the algae, fleshy fungi, plant diseases, lower green land plants, higher plants, plant communities, forestry, limnology, insects, invertebrates other than insects, animal parasites, insect pests, cave fauna, fishes, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Anthropological interest centers on chapters dealing with the cultural and racial history of the Indians. There are articles devoted to changing patterns in agriculture, population, and the state park system.

It can thus be seen that the coverage is broad indeed. The reader will find that the various chapters paint a vivid picture of Indiana geography, soils, climatic characteristics, agricultural practices and position, mineral resources, and plant and animal life. Considerable emphasis is laid on the importance of conserving, so far as possible,

the natural heritage. To quote from Lindsey's introductory chapter—"thoughtful trusteeship, not all-out technological bludgeoning of Nature, is needed from now on. . . . We serve our continuing interests better by respecting, understanding and working along with natural processes than by ignoring or opposing them. A square deal for environment is essential for future prosperity and viability . . ." (p. xxvii).

This unique and attractive volume is a fitting contribution to the celebration of Indiana's 150th birthday.

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Ralph E. Cleland

Hoosier Disciples: A Comprehensive History of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana. By Henry K. Shaw ([St. Louis]: The Bethany Press, for the Association of the Christian Churches in Indiana, 1966. Pp. 535. Notes, illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

If Hoosier Disciples had continued their early policy of avoiding written records relating to their beliefs and activities, the author of the present volume would have been in for a frustrating experience. A report of the 1829 Indiana Christian Conference typifies their reluctance to put anything down in writing: "The brethren, after conversing freely, unanimously agreed, to lay aside the Minute-Book for the present, for the following reason, viz: That some of our dear brethren were opposed to it" (p. 34). The Disciples wanted no creedal interpretations or written commentary that might pose a threat to the Bible's "pure" contents and the individual's right to seek his salvation in the Scriptures. As a corollary to this conviction, they hoped to avoid any kind of church organization that might force uniformity among the brethren.

Conditions on the frontier encouraged such spiritual independence, and the success of the Disciples of Christ is evidence that a large segment of the frontier population found it appealing. But as the conditions which prompted the Disciples movement began to alter, so did the movement itself. "Through bitter experience they learned that their cherished freedom often led to fragmentation. . . . The primary struggle by Hoosier Disciples for a century and a quarter was a search for guide lines of effective cooperation" (pp. 468-69). Thus, in many respects, Shaw's book is an account of an "anti-institutional" religious movement transforming itself into a modern, complex religious *institution*.

Hoosier Disciples is more chronicle than comprehensive history. It is a factual, period-by-period summarization of the Indiana Disciples of Christ churches from their origin during the Indiana territorial years through 1965. Shaw traces not only the evolution of the central governing body of the association, but he also records the development of several ancillary organizations and agencies which are now integral parts of the Disciples' efforts in Indiana. These include the United Christian Mission Society, the Christian Theological Seminary, and Butler University. The data required to depict all of this becomes almost encyclopedic in scope.