

accept the "vice-presidency in the runoff between Jackson and Adams" (p. 46)? Is it not taking too much poetic license to say that "Overnight some 100,000 immigrants scrambling for riches poured into California by land and sea, and every kind of lawlessness quickly followed" (p. 99)? And just how does one arrive at the conclusion that "nearly 800,000 Negroes served voluntarily in the Union armies" and there were 68,000 "losses" among these troops (p. 193)? This would have meant that *every* free Negro, North and South, plus about 300,000 slaves enlisted with the federal forces. Actually the number was less than 200,000.

These and numerous other statements which fail to make fine, but important, distinctions substantially decrease the value of this work. There are more than the allowable number of errors in the suggested reading section, especially on page 210. For these and some of the other mistakes, perhaps the editor of the series and the University of Chicago Press should share responsibility.

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Chase C. Mooney

Political Literature of the Progressive Era. Edited, with an introduction by George L. Groman. ([East Lansing]: Michigan State University Press, 1967. Pp. xxii, 287. \$6.50.)

In the literature of the Progressive Era there are numerous collections of muckraking articles which appeared in the popular magazines of the time. In contrast, little or no attention has been given to the muckraking fiction that appeared during the same years. The present volume attempts to remedy this imbalance.

George L. Groman has assembled a collection designed to illustrate the diversity of American political fiction during the Populist-Progressive period. He has also contributed a succinct introduction and a series of brief sketches about the authors of the pieces. The result is a well-planned and interesting book which adds to our knowledge of the reform drive that was Progressivism.

Groman has included in this study selections from a dozen writers, many well known and others largely obscure. Some, like Hamlin Garland, Booth Tarkington, and William Allen White, were famous as authors in other fields of literature. Men like Lincoln Steffens, David Graham Phillips, and Elliot Flower were practicing muckraking journalists who for the moment turned their talents to fiction. Brand Whitlock was better known as a diplomat and public official. Included also are excerpts from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and Frank Norris' *The Octopus*. Together the selections range from the rural protests of the Populists to the more subtle exposures during the days of the New Freedom.

Frequently fiction can portray a situation with greater completeness and truth than can a documented factual report. Certainly, Phillips has depicted the struggle for power in *The Plum Tree* more meaningfully to the general reader than could a literal account of the

events on which it was based. The horror that was Chicago's Packing-town was brought home to the average citizen far more fully in the pages of *The Jungle* than in the report of the official investigation. Thus muckraking fiction augmented the muckraking articles and added to the wave of literature of exposure which helped bring on the reforms of the Progressive Era.

The reviewer might criticize Groman for his selection of certain pieces to the exclusion of others. Several of the stories are a bit repetitious and the chief figures are mere stereotypes. In a few cases the accounts are brief and seem incomplete. But these are minor quibbles. In general the selections are judiciously made and the impact of the volume is distinctly favorable. This collection of muckraking fiction is a welcome and useful addition to the growing shelf of Progressive literature.

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Robert S. Maxwell

Dissertations in History: An Index to Dissertations Completed in History Departments of United States and Canadian Universities, 1873-1960. By Warren F. Kuehl. ([Lexington]: University of Kentucky Press, 1965. Pp. xi, 249. Index. \$15.00.)

This index includes only doctoral dissertations completed in history departments in the United States. Any person seriously interested in historical research who will spend many hours examining and using this index, as this reviewer has done, will find it most valuable.

As the introduction notes, related indices are needed. Gathering data and editing this compilation, however, was obviously a herculean task even without attempting to select and include dissertations of an historical nature from other subjects and areas. The subject index to this volume is most helpful, but there is no satisfactory substitute for examining the text page by page. Since the index proper lists theses alphabetically by author, no author index was needed.

Dissertations in History is not without its errors, both of omission and commission. This situation results largely because "historians, who are so concerned with the records of others, have been so shoddy in keeping their own or in seeing that their institutions maintain complete files (p. ix)." Compiler Kuehl reports that he did not find even a single instance of a university whose records concerning its own dissertations were "found to be fully accurate or complete (p. x)."

An analysis of this index reveals various gaps in historical dissertations. For instance, authors of doctoral theses have generally neglected topics in local and state history and they have also neglected topics regarding the Middle West. Librarians, teachers, researchers, administrators, and interested citizens alike should combine their efforts and take significant steps to remedy this unfortunate situation. (Similar observations were offered by editor Kuehl himself in his discussion of *Dissertations in History* which appeared in the *American Historical Association Newsletter*, June, 1965, pp. 19-26.)

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