the author shows also that Harding was a much more able individual than he himself believed and that his common sense often was extraordinary in its perceptions. As for dissoluteness, the President was mostly a one drink man, and no one ever saw him drunk. He enjoyed a little poker for low stakes. The Duchess, his wife, was in many ways a good wife, but it is true that Harding made up for one of her deficiencies by consorting with Carrie Phillips and, perhaps, Nan Britton. A half century later it all hardly seems remarkable. There is not the slightest evidence that it had any effect on his public career. Indeed, when Carrie implored him to vote against the war with Germany in 1917, Harding made a Senate speech advocating war. As for the other Harding scandals, so called, they were not as bad as they seemed at the time of their disclosure, and historians, Murray rightly contends, should stop making so much of them.

All in all this is a splendid book.

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During the First World War the United States government was successful in mobilizing not only soldiers for European battlefields and workers for industry but professional academic historians who were “ready to enlist their talents to justify America’s part in the war, delineate historic causes of the struggle, and unify public opinion” (p. 14). Such luminaries of the profession as J. Franklin Jameson, James T. Shotwell, Guy Stanton Ford, Charles A. Beard, Carl Becker, A. B. Hart, and Indiana University's Samuel B. Harding were numbered among the historians who served the National Board for Historical Service, the Committee on Public Information, and the National Security League. These historians filled a need and met a demand, for as Booth Tarkington noted, the typical Hoosier (or average American) was “loyal, but not at all clear as to what we are fighting. . . . But if he reads a pamphlet ‘got out by the United States Gov’ment’ he is ‘impressed!’ ” (p. 34). Millions of words and pamphlets were written and distributed to the American people under the imprint of leading historians, and George T. Blakey, in an excellent first monograph, describes the resulting situation.

Not all members of the profession, nor the American public, were satisfied with the admittedly propagandistic efforts of the participat-
ing historians, and serious questions of propriety and professional ethics were raised. C. Hartley Grattan mounted a full scale attack, and H. L. Mencken suggested a medal and pension to reward historians for prostituting their professional training, integrity, and standards. Blakey observes, however, that most of the participating historians "regarded their extraordinary venture into patriotic service as an aberrant chapter in their lives, an atypical departure from scholarship necessitated by the national crisis and obviating judgment by professional standards" (p. 140). Nonetheless, despite such rationalizations, historians did not take part in similar activities in the Second World War, and, with one or two notable exceptions, they have hesitated to combine the roles of scholarship and political activism.

Blakey has written a most interesting and needed work, one that all historians would be well advised to read. The dangers of historians writing propaganda are clearly pointed out. The author writes well, has gone to the original records of the propaganda agencies, as well as to the private papers of historians, and his conclusions are judicious and well grounded. The author might have included more material from historians who were critical of the entire operation and also contrasted historians with members of other fields engaged in similar activities; both would have added a broader perspective. This, however, should not detract from the book's already considerable merits.

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Arthur H. Vandenberg was one of the few Republicans to survive politically the Democratic victories of the 1930s. Appointed to the Senate in 1928, he remained there until his death in 1951. His place in United States history stems primarily from the last half dozen years of his career when he was a spokesman for bipartisan foreign policy and played a prominent role in the formation of the United Nations, the Truman Doctrine, and the Marshall Plan. Professor Tompkins is leaving this phase of Vandenberg's life to a second volume to be written when important collections are opened to researchers. The author's intention in the volume under review is to cover the less known earlier career of Vandenberg and to trace his evolution as a modern Republican, a term not well defined but which apparently means a Republican who accepted principles of the early New Deal and who rejected isolationism.