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upon the development of English poetry. The most interesting examinations, of course, are those dealing with the work of Chaucer (with a capably devised table), Spenser, Milton, Thomson and Tennyson. The chapters on "The Mediæval Tradition" and "Vergil and Humanism" are careful and useful, and the discussion of Vergilian influence on *Beowulf*, in the former chapter, is refreshingly sound. It is to be regretted, however, that Dr. Nitchie allows herself, especially in the Introduction, to use frequently such elastic terms as "splendid," "wonderfully," "remarkable," "full perfection," "marvellous," "astonishing," etc. In general, indeed, she shows herself more at home as a recorder of results than as an interpretative appraiser of them. The volume properly closes with a comparison (perhaps somewhat too ardently expressed) between Vergil and Tennyson.

G. H. C.

THE ASHLEY-SMITH EXPLORATIONS AND THE DISCOVERY OF A CENTRAL ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC, 1822-1829, with the Original Journals edited by Harrison Clifford Dale. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company. 1918. Pp. 352.

It has heretofore been the orthodox method of writing American history—at any rate in our school and college text-books—to make the story of the great trans-Mississippi country begin with the Mexican War and the rush of the Forty-Niners to California. For some time past a wholesome reaction against this provincial point of view has set in. A host of writers and editors, such as H. H. Bancroft, Elliott Cones, R. G. Thwaites, H. M. Chittenden, Joseph Schafer, *et al.*, acting independently, or in conjunction with the great historical societies of the Mississippi Valley and of the Pacific Slope, have set forth the adventures of the early Western explorers or edited their journals.

With but very few exceptions these early adventurers have not been scientists or professional geographers. Almost to a man they have been missionaries, trappers or traders; that is, in the words of Professor Dale, "men who have entered a hitherto unknown region, not with the object of adding to the stock of human knowledge about the face of the earth, but . . . for a distinct personal object, the attainment of which demanded their penetration of the unknown." Fur traders and fur trappers

have furnished the bulk of the early explorers. Thus the Hudson Bay Company sent forth such pathfinders as David Thompson, Alexander Ross and Peter Ogden, who greatly contributed to open up the valley of the Columbia River and its tributaries, while the heroes of Professor Dale's volume, William Henry Ashley and Jedediah Smith, both professional fur traders, discovered a central route to the Pacific by way of the Platte, the Interior Basin and the Colorado River. In short, the history of the Great Northwest up to the forties is the history of the fur trader.

Professor Dale is excellently equipped for his task of editor and biographer. Not only is he personally familiar with most of the country he describes, but he has so diligently studied the sources and authorities that he is able to elucidate every point of topic occurring in or connected with the narratives he publishes. Of the sources which he now for the first time brings together and prints, viz., Ashley's account of his journey down the Greer River (a confluent of the Colorado), 1824-1825; certain letters of Jedediah Smith describing Smith's expeditions to California and finally the journals of Harrison G. Rogers (a companion of Smith); the last are easily the most interesting, if not the most important. Rogers records every incident during the long stay that Smith and his party were compelled to make at the old San Gabriel Mission near Los Angeles in Southern California and his journal gives us one of the best accounts of the peaceful and prosperous mission régime before the coming of the American conquerors. Like the other old Spanish missions, San Gabriel was a huge ranch, employing over a thousand Indians—virtually as slaves, so Rogers tells us—in agriculture, herding blacksmithing, carpentering and in textile industries. The mission grazed upwards of thirty thousand cattle, “and horses sheep, hogs, etc., in proportion.” Over this little commonwealth presided jovial, hospitable Father Sanchez, generous to the needy half-starved American trappers, whom he handsomely entertained during the stay which the Mexican governor compelled them to make, and whom he dismissed with liberal gifts

Professor Dale prefaces the documents he edits with a scholarly introduction, giving such geographical and historical setting a

is needed for the proper understanding of Ashley and Smith's operations, and connecting and linking them with the previous explorations of other fur hunters. The whole forms a large volume very handsomely printed and illustrated with two maps and several halftone cuts. There is a useful bibliography and a good index.

S. L. WARE.

TABULAR VIEWS OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY. A Series of Chronological Tables, Presenting, in Parallel Columns, a Record of the more Noteworthy Events in the History of the World from the Earliest Times down to the Present Day, together with an Alphabetical Index of Subjects. Edited by George Haven Putnam. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1919. Pp. vi+520.

As the title indicates, the usefulness of this handbook consists in the arrangement of its matter in six parallel columns, showing at a glance synchronous occurrences throughout the various countries of the world. An excellent feature is the column headed "Progress of Society, etc.," under which literary, artistic or scientific events, discoveries or inventions, are chronicled. Over 168 pages are devoted to the events of the last nineteen years, the Great War being recorded with particular fullness. There are genealogical tables and a number of maps.

S. L. W.

THE HIGHER LEARNING IN AMERICA. A Memorandum on the Conduct of Universities by Business Men. By Thorstein Veblen. New York: R. W. Huesch. 1918. Pp. viii, 286.

How deadly easy it is to pick holes in a book of this type—and how unprofitable. The main points have been stated again and again; the author appears to have a personal grievance; his economic and political radicalism colors his comment on things scholastic—and so on. But his protest against "executive megalomania" is put more strongly and thoughtfully than usual; the author is a long-time student of business methods and men; and the dangers he points out are still with us. Indeed, the very fact that the "business men" in charge of colleges and universities, on the business side, seem as a rule so little concerned in maintaining a decent minimum wage for college professors, and seem in practice to taboo the idea of a professor's