

The Story of the Western Railroads. By ROBERT EDGAR RIEGEL.
(New York: Macmillan, 1926. Pp. 345. \$2.50.)

The Story of the Western Railroads by Robert E. Riegel is not for the romanticist. The development of the railroad maze is not the story of a modern Aladdin. It is rather the account of an inch by inch, month by month conquest in the threefold field of politics, finance and engineering.

Mr. Riegel has condensed a mass of facts, gleaned largely from source material, into a comprehensive survey of western railroad history from its beginning to the early years of the twentieth century. He writes without bias; he is strictly non-partisan whether he is writing of the capitalist, the politician, or the interested public. His account is an illuminating correlation of facts concerning the network of the western railroads with its manifold ramifications covering federal, state and local aid, the relation to economic prosperity and depression, the difficulties with labor, and the progress of the roads toward consolidation.

An index and a lengthy bibliography make the book useful for ready reference. The bibliography is annotated and divided in conformity with the chapter divisions. The book is undoubtedly a scholarly contribution to the field of general railroad history, a field as yet scarcely touched.

ELVA L. BATCHELLER.

A Political and Social History of the United States: Volume I. (1492-1828). By HOMER C. HOCKETT, Professor of American History, Ohio State University. *Volume II. (1829-1925).* By ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, Professor of History, Harvard University. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1925. Pp. XIV+438; and XVIII+576.)

These two volumes designed primarily as a text for college classes, though excellent reading for the general public, emphasize the growing demand for economic and social history in place of the old political outline. The result is a condensation of the purely political story and the inclusion of much new material which is sometimes woven into the political narrative and sometimes given in separate chapters. Professor Hockett devotes 166 pages of his volume to the period ending with the making of the Constitution and the balance takes the story down to the election of Jackson. The opening chapter on European Beginnings suffers slightly in literary style from abrupt condensation but the succeed-

ing chapters present very clearly, accurately and concisely the development of our early history. Throughout the volume there is a successful attempt to present the material in pleasing form and at the same time there is maintained a careful regard for the exact facts. Chapter XI which deals with a difficult period, the Formation of the Constitution—difficult to present in brief compass—and yet the author in about forty pages sets it forth very clearly and adequately, in fact the reviewer knows of no other place where it is better done briefly, even though Professor Hockett seems to go out of his way to take a dig at Prof. Beard. Professor Schlesinger's part of the work begins with the election of Jackson and comes down to the present time in thirty chapters which are grouped under four general headings, viz. The Age of the Common Man, The Contest over Nationality, The Economic Revolution, and Greater America. The first three of these broad divisions is opened by a chapter setting forth the social and economic developments, and in addition five more chapters deal with the same sort of material primarily. As in the case of the first volume, this one is marked by considerable literary skill. Throughout both volumes the Westward Movement comes in for a large share of attention. Professor Schlesinger's is the more difficult period. As one approaches the present the embers of political passion are easily kindled but he has to a surprising degree presented the facts fairly and has nowhere dropped into the pace of a mere chronicler. His story is eminently fair but alert and active.

Everywhere both writers show their familiarity with the newer work in the field and the reader can rest assured that his information has been gathered from the best that historical scholarship has produced.

At the end of each chapter is a brief "Select Bibliography" and in addition Prof. Hockett in an appendix gives a list of all the books cited at the close of the chapters. There is an index at the end of each volume.

There are a number of mistakes in the books. These are possibly inevitable owing to the difficulties involved in condensing so much material into brief space and at the same time trying to concede something to literary presentation. But they are not serious and in a later edition may be eliminated. Multitudes of students who will use these volumes owe a debt of gratitude to the writers.

EDWARD McMAHON.