

rians in other states. It is to be hoped that Washington will be among the first to follow in making a reliable record of the beginnings and development of this most important feature in our civilization. Here is a great opportunity for a student of history and education in the state of Washington.

PAUL J. KRUSE.

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SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD: A BIOGRAPHY. By William Healey Dall. (Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1915. Pp. 462. \$3.50.)

"The two men who have exerted the strongest influence upon natural history studies in this country are Louis Agassiz and Professor Baird." This judgment of the late Dr. J. S. Billings indicates the importance of the present and first adequate biography of Spencer Fullerton Baird.

The subject of this notable biography was for thirty-seven years in the scientific service of the United States Government. During his entire career he was directly or indirectly concerned in the organization and administration of the scientific work of the numerous surveys and explorations sent out by the Government. He was in Washington City as a youth of nineteen when the collections from the now famous Wilkes Exploring Expedition were being received by the Museum of the Patent Office. So interested did he become in the scientific material which he there saw that he at once applied for a position as curator. He failed to secure the position but in 1850 became Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and later Secretary of this Organization which position he held through life. Under his direction, the natural history reports of many of the surveys of the West were prepared and he personally wrote the two volumes of the Pacific Railroad Survey devoted to mammals and birds.

The volume contains many selections from Professor Baird's correspondence with Audubon, Agassiz, Dana and other scientists of note and is so full of human interest that anyone, regardless of profession, will find it a delightful book to read. The author, Dr. W. H. Dall, has written many books and monographs on Alaska and the Northwest and has been a curator of the United States National Museum since 1880.

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COLLECTIONS OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. VOLUME 13, 1913-1914. Edited by William E. Connelley. (Topeka, State Printer, 1915. Pp. 602.)

This volume will prove of value in the Pacific Northwest by rea-