

BOOK REVIEWS

Seeing the Far West. By JOHN T. FARIS. (Philadelphia: Lippincott. 1920. Pp. 303. \$6.00.)

Seeing the West. By K. E. M. DUMBELL. (Garden City: Doubleday. 1920. Pp. 206. \$1.75.)

As a successful extended piece of description which is neither a guidebook nor a journal, Mr Faris' *Seeing the Far West* may well claim attention. It is a six-dollar book, containing one hundred and thirteen photographs and two maps. Although it is devoted to the National parks and monuments principally, it is so shaded in by the use of historical fragments and so expanded by wayside glimpses, that it seems indeed to cover all of the West.

Emphasis has been laid upon the less known parts of the country, to the book's increased value as a contribution to western material. There is something of a lack of subordination, perhaps, arising from the author's fidelity to names and altitudes, but we can hardly quarrel with him for that. He writes with a sightseer's love for the beautiful and terrible waste places. Like many others, he turns to the West for immensity, for great undertakings and vast outlooks; and wherever he finds those things, he writes them up particularly. The treatment of most localities is necessarily brief, in view of the great number included.

Mr. Faris is by no means inexperienced as a writer. He is objective, dignified, absorbingly interesting to the general reader. He is a clergyman, the author of numerous books and short articles. Before *Seeing the Far West*, he published several books of travel, *Seeing Pennsylvania* being the latest. The West is not a new field to him, for he has written *On the Trail of the Pioneers*.

K. E. M. Dumbell has recently issued a western guide-book. The title, *Seeing the West* might lead to confusion between this book and Mr. Faris', but there is no similarity except in the general outline of the subject. It covers the great national parks, methodically and in just proportion, with explicit directions for lodgings and conveyance and advisable side-trips. It is more than usually well written for a book of its kind, and might profitably be read in connection with the other. Its clear-drawn distinctions between jour-

neys and destinations contrast with Mr. Faris' method, and throw into relief his art of picturing for us whole sections of the country.

HELEN D. GOODWIN

The Plains and the Rockies: A Contribution to the Bibliography of Original Narratives of Travel and Adventure, 1800-1865. By HENRY R. WAGNER. (San Francisco: John Howell, 1920. Pp. 174. \$10.00.)

To students, librarians, and alike to buyers and sellers of books, this new bibliography prepared by Mr. H. R. Wagner of Berkeley, California, will prove most useful. It contains but 349 numbered items but gives such full and scholarly annotations regarding each title included that it will take its place as one of the standard bibliographies of the West.

In scope, the work is limited to original editions of original narratives of travel and adventure within the region from the Missouri river to the Pacific Ocean. The author is an enthusiastic and discriminating collector and he has drawn upon his own library for most of the items listed, the remainder being taken from his list of "Wants." The result is a volume of great interest and value with notes of unusual fullness and individuality.

The arrangement is chronological, a fact not readily apparent, as the dates are made a part of the collation in ordinary type. Had the dates been justified to left margin, preceding authors' names, such provision would have facilitated the use of the book. Each item is numbered and an author and title index is provided referring rightly to these numbers in preference to page.

A goodly proportion of the titles relate fundamentally to the Pacific Northwest and a few are rarities that are practically unknown to the libraries of this region. The price of the volume may prevent its purchase by the smaller libraries whose support is never equal to immediate demands, but the more important reference libraries will gladly secure this important book. The value of a bibliography must be rated, not by the page, but by its service as a reference tool. Every possible inducement should be given to the preparation of scholarly lists such as Mr. Wagner has furnished.

The volume was printed during the author's absence in the East and a few copies distributed before his return. On discovering numerous typographical errors, Mr. Wagner promptly suppressed the edition and orders for the book are being held against a re-printing under the author's personal supervision.

CHARLES W. SMITH