

BOOK REVIEWS

David Thompson, the Explorer. By CHARLES NORRIS COCHRANE.
(Toronto: The Macmillan Company. 1924. Pp. 173. Price \$1.00).

Mr. J. B. Tyrrell's *Brief Narrative of the Journeys of David Thompson*, in the Proceedings of the Canadian Institute, 1887-8, the late Dr. Elliott Coues's extracts from his journals in the *New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest*, the many journals of Thompson's voyages annotated by Mr. T. C. Elliott and published in this *Quarterly* and in that of the Oregon Historical Society, and Thompson's *Narrative* issued by the Champlain Society with notes by Mr. Tyrrell, Mr. Elliott, and others have made his achievements familiar to all students of western history.

This little book, which is one of a series of "Canadian Men of Action," is written for the general reader and as an introduction to the more intensive study of that part of the story of the West. No attempt at independent research has been made; it would have been out of keeping with the purpose. Professor Cochrane frankly admits that he has merely condensed Thompson's own account; but he has succeeded in giving in this small compass a clear and accurate view of the work done by "Canada's greatest geographer." He has told the story in a connected and interesting manner, touching upon the salient features in Thompson's life, and enabling the reader, who is borne along on the easy current of the narrative, to appreciate not only the vast extent of his explorations, but also the sterling character of the pathfinder. A map is included, which shows roughly the region in which Thompson spent over a quarter of a century, and enables the uninitiated reader to follow with reasonable accuracy the explorer's numerous journeys.

A few small errors have found their way into the book. Page 106 contains three statements that can scarcely be accepted in their entirety; in 1806 John Jacob Astor was not, as stated, exerting all his strength to build up a fur trading empire on the Pacific slope; nor was the Hudson's Bay Company then knocking at the barrier of the Rockies; nor had Fraser then made his celebrated voyage to the sea. The author has a chapter on "The Race to the Sea," dealing with Thompson's journey to Astoria in 1811, but the better opinion today is that he was proceeding quite lei-

surely. The statement on page 141 that at "each halting place" Thompson posted a notice claiming the territory for the King is scarcely in accordance with the fact.

The book is of convenient size and well printed. It contains a short bibliography but has no index.

F. W. HOWAY.

The Columbia Unveiled. By M. J. LORRAINE. (Los Angeles: Times-Mirror Company, 1924. Pp. 435+7. \$3.50).

This book is the narrative of a rather remarkable feat performed in the summer and fall of 1921 by the author, who is a civil engineer by profession, and who, for the pure love of adventure and scientific knowledge, navigated in a dory or skiff of his own making the entire length of the Columbia river from source to Astoria, which is practically its mouth. He carried his own outfit and lived and maneuvered his boat alone except where other assistance was positively needed for patent reasons and himself took many of the pictures with which the volume is illustrated. His book is well printed and bound and is a distinct addition to the literature pertaining to the Columbia river. In the information contained it is to be preferred to another of the previous year by Lewis R. Freeman, who made a similar journey but as a journalist with much assistance, but who traveled beside the river and not upon it for many miles. The trip by Mr. Lorraine is, as far as known to the writer, the first travel of a white man over the entire length of the river recorded in the history of the river since David Thompson accomplished his voyage of discovery in the year 1811. Although not a writer Mr. Lorraine tells the story in a simple manner and without too much personal reference, and the illustrations add much to our knowledge of the river and its tributary streams. Unfortunately the historical references and statements are based upon insufficient or erroneous information, and in a great many instances must be disregarded. Had this story been tied up to that of David Thompson by use of the daily journal kept by that wonderful man this book might have been a real addition to the history as well as the literature of the river.

T. C. ELLIOTT.

Paul Bunyan. By ESTHER SHEPHARD. (Seattle: The McNeil Press, 1924. Pp. 235. \$2.50).

It begins to look as though those who have deprecatingly in-