

fusely illustrated with cuts of specimens at the Museum. The unique wood work technique is dwelt on at length, together with the more customary industrial pursuits. The chapter on social and political organization represents the most discriminating work in the book. The social organization and ceremonial life of these tribes is among the most complex and elaborate developed by any Indians north of Mexico. From a mass of descriptive detail the author has chosen the most significant points and presented them in a clear, concise manner. These tribes have a rigid caste system based on hereditary privileges and the accumulation of wealth. The chief is the one who has inherited and acquired the largest amounts. In order to retain his prestige he has to display his wealth by giving potlatches. In the winter months a person's clan and village affiliations were dropped and he sat in the potlatch house with the members of his secret society and participated in their ritual. It has taken ethnologists many years to unravel this shifting system of associations.

The art of the North Pacific coast people falls into two classes, the geometric designs used by the women in basketry, clothing decoration and weaving, and the semi-realistic art used by the woodcarvers. The subjects for this last named art are taken from the mythology and family traditions of the people. One of the privileges of the chiefs and other people of high rank was that they could display their family crests in carvings and paintings on their houses, on grave posts and on personal belongings. The canons of this art have been studied in considerable detail of which Goddard gives an excellent resume.

This sketch should be of great help to all who seek information on the aboriginal culture of this area, but who have neither the opportunity nor the need of dealing with the original sources. For many tribes there is excellent and fairly extensive material at hand; the author availed himself of this to the best advantage. The book shows fine press work and has very ample illustrations.

ERNA GUNTHER.

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*History of the American Frontier.* By FREDERIC L. PAXSON  
(Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1924. Pp. 598. \$6.00.)

Theodore Roosevelt's "Winning of the West" is the story of the conquest of the frontier; Frederick Jackson Turner's book on "The Frontier in American History" is a brilliant interpretation of the frontier and its significance; Frederic L. Paxson's recent

work seems to complete the trilogy, for it gives a chronological account of the frontier from 1763 to 1893. Roosevelt was the pioneer himself in spirit, convinced of the rightness of the pioneer, and preoccupied, like the pioneer, with Indian fighting and treaty-making. Turner was the first to interpret the frontier in its relation to general development. His thesis with its emphasis on the frontier as the important factor in the development of democracy and of composite nationality has become classic. However, that thesis needed enlargement and this it has found in the recent work. Not that Mr. Paxson depends entirely on the former work, but more in the sense that he has begun with it and from there has advanced to some reinterpretation of the material, casting the whole of it into more definitive form.

The only criticism that could be made of the contents as far as the period covered is that one might question the limitation of the American frontier implied by the beginning date, 1763. Mr. Paxson writes: "The American frontier takes shape in the final years of the century of colonial wars, and upon the return of peace starts upon the conquest of the continent. Its British origins survive to mould its life, but its destiny and its spirit have become American." The question of the date for the beginning of American as contrasted with "British" in describing the frontier is debatable, of course. The greater part of the movement westward from 1680 to 1763, especially in New England, seems to have been pushed by settlers who had before settled in America. However, the whole question is largely a matter of definition, and Mr. Paxson's use of the terms has ample support if considered from the more official point of view. This criticism applies only to the work when considered from the chronological and definitive point of view. Within the era discussed, it is an accurate and readable account with many references to the material in the field. Critical comments on the books and articles referred to are especially valuable and in fact, furnish the student with a comprehensive, annotated bibliography.

In addition, Mr. Paxson reinterprets portions of the field such as his discussion of the Indian policy, and summarizes problems—such as the Burr conspiracy, in the light of recent research. It is refreshing to find a frank and unbiased treatment of the Indian problem. "The best virtues of the whites led to Indian undoing, by destroying their livelihood and occupying their land." Mr. Paxson writes: "The vices of the whites were as outstanding as

their virtues, and even more disastrous. In whiskey the frontier farmer or trader had a cheap commodity for which the savage would pay a high price. The furs that he had taken months to collect would be traded for a song in whiskey. And after the Indian was drunk, he would barter anything, or make his mark on any paper or treaty, and thus from the white standpoint dispossess himself of everything else he had." In many other cases, Mr. Paxson reveals a salutary regard for facts that are often neglected, as the statement: "the Battle of Tippecanoe, doubtful victory that it was \* \* \* broke the rising tide of Indian consciousness", where others have considered it a real victory; he calls the war of 1812, the western war of 1812, where many neglect the tremendous importance of western causes for that war; he calls a good deal of the material on the Burr conspiracy "gossip" where most writers have named them facts. Not only that, Mr. Paxson makes some interesting departures. His treatment of the period from 1800 to 1828 is introduced by a chapter on political theory of the frontier which makes a good analysis of the effect of frontier life on political thought. He also discusses the effect of such environment on contemporary habits of thought. For example, he writes: "The American worship of the self-made man has been founded in this general knowledge that most Americans in the beginning were self-made."

The general spirit in which this history is written is at once appreciative of the importance of the frontier with its epic quality and yet remains critical, filled with analytical discussions of frontier attitudes. Because of this, Mr. Paxson's contribution fills a real need.

EBBA DAHLIN.

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*Tales of a Western Mountaineer.* By C. E. RUSK. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1924, Pp. 309. \$2.50.)

The reputation of the author is much esteemed by members of The Mountaineers. They have felt that he was especially fond of Glacier Peak and Mount Adams as he had been one of the early explorers of those peaks. Those who read this well written and superbly illustrated (forty-one beautiful pictures) book will find that he is partial to those fine mountains; but they will also find that he has abundant love for the other mountains.

At the outset he says: "Mount Adams first came to me through the medium of half-realized childhood impressions. It