

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

is among the earliest of my memories. Dim and misty, in the beginning, its image appeared far down the corridors of the nearly forgotten past. Gradually it took form and entity as my understanding grew. The years added to its distinctness. As I came physically nearer to it, it became more of a reality—a splendid and unusual reality, it is true. And at last we became friends and companions. Friends and companions I hope we shall always remain.”

From that confession of his first mountain love, it is a delight to trace his development into a true mountaineer, knowing and loving all the wonderful snow mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

Chapter X. is headed “Regal Glacier Peak, Ice-King of the Northern Cascades”. Members of The Mountaineers will find Chapter XII. of peculiar help at the present moment. It is captioned “The Mountain of Thrills” and deals with Mount Stuart. He tells of his two ascents in 1920 and 1921. As The Mountaineers expect to climb the same mountain in 1925, they should by all means ascertain why Mr. Rush calls it “The Mountain of Thrills.”

The book is quite sure to become a favorite and if a second edition should be issued the author would do well to provide an adequate index.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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*The Early History of the Lumber Trade of Kansas City.* By CHARLES P. DEATHERAGE. (Kansas City: Deatherage, 1924. Pp. 40. \$0.50.)

*Steamboating on the Missouri River in the Sixties.* By CHARLES P. DEATHERAGE. (Kansas City: Deatherage, 1924, Pp. 40. \$0.50.)

These two booklets are reprints of a series of articles that have appeared in Kansas City periodicals, the first in the *Retail Lumberman* of 1922-1923, the second in the *Kansas City News-Press* in June and July, 1924. They are based largely upon the author's own reminiscences and contain many interesting incidents of early days. These informal accounts of pioneer days on the Missouri River add something to a composite picture of the West which the formal histories do not give.