

BOOK REVIEWS

Honne, the Spirit of the Chehalis. By KATHERINE VAN WINKLE PALMER. (Geneva, N. Y.:Humphrey, 1925. Pp. 204. \$1.50.)
Ancient Warriors of the North Pacific. By CHARLES HARRISON. (London: Witherby, 1925. Pp. 222. 15 shillings.)

This collection of Chehalis folktales is a welcome addition to the body of material about the Indians of the Northwest which is being gradually accumulated. For the student of Indian culture and history the Chehalis are in a very important position. From the Quinault, their neighbors to the north, they were due to receive some of the culture traits that spread from the centers of North Pacific Coast culture on Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland. To the south were the Chinook whose version of North Pacific Coast culture, still further removed from the center had acquired other interpretations. They also showed relations with their own southern neighbors. To the east and northeast were the Cowlitz and Nisqually, important as centers of trade and therefore also cultural diffusion between the Coast and Sound peoples and the Indians east of the Cascades. They together with the Klickitat were the tribes who introduced horses through their trade with the Indians towards the Plains.

From this it can be seen that the Chehalis were in a position to have a rich and varied culture. Very little is known about them for their tribal life disintegrated soon after the coming of the whites. That there are fragments to be gleaned by the ethnologist is shown by the present publication.

It might be assumed that as large a collection of folktales as the present one could help solve this question of cultural affiliation of the Chehalis. Most unfortunately this is not true. In the preface it is stated that the tales are told by a man whose father was Nisqually and whose mother was a Cowlitz. Although he lived on the Chehalis River the larger part of his life it cannot be assumed that the tales are really the folktales of the Chehalis Indians. Taken episode for episode, they resemble most closely a collection of Snohomish-Snuqualmi stories which will appear shortly in the *Journal of American Folklore*. Since it is known that the Snohomish and Nisqually were very closely related linguistically and culturally one might safely offer the opinion that

the Indian who told these stories gave what he had gotten from his father rather than telling the tales of the locality in which he lived. This may seem like a minor point but to the ethnologist tribal differences are of utmost importance, for it is only through the records of these minor differences that the larger changes in culture can be traced.

Another difficulty in using the tales for the comparative study of local folktales is the fact that the subtitles are run utterly regardless of the unity of the incidents they head. Some have the weight of a full title, others head merely a brief paragraph. For anyone interested in Indian literary style this is most perplexing, for it is impossible to determine the length of a single story, hence the character of the plots cannot be discussed.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, the collection is a welcome one, especially since it was undertaken because of a real interest in these people and a desire to perpetuate their body of unwritten literature.

The second book deals with the Haida Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands, a tribe formerly feared by all tribes from Alaska to California. They were fearless seamen who constantly set out on marauding expeditions. The book is written by a man who has lived among these people for forty years and therefore witnessed the old life before its decay. The author has given a very readable, entertaining account, but it adds little to the information which ethnologists have gathered. It is unfortunate that his rare opportunity to observe the intimate, day by day life of the tribe was not used to greater advantage. In one of the early chapters the author states that no systematic effort had been made to study these people and their works. He is evidently not aware of the solid contributions of the Bureau of American Ethnology and of the American Museum of Natural History on these people published some twenty years ago.

ERNA GUNTHER.

Oregon Sketches. By WALLACE SMITH. (New York: Putnam, 1925. Pp. 247. \$2.50.)

In *Oregon Sketches* Wallace Smith gives glimpses of the new and glorified West, a West that is a revival of all that tradition has contributed to the term, including cowboys and Indians, guns and war paint. For the sake of the cinema "the good old West is booming along greater than ever". The "ladies" of Bootlace