

*The Historian and Historical Evidence.* By ALLEN JOHNSON. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1926. Pp. 179.)

The author of *The Historian and Historical Evidence* is Professor of American History at Yale University. The title of the book sounds, and really is, technical. But the author has a further purpose. He says: "In writing this little book I have had in mind not only future writers of history but that intelligent reading public which would know how to discriminate between histories and histories."

The book comprises seven essays or chapters whose titles give a brief survey of the ground covered: "The Sources of Information, The Basis of Historical Doubt, The Technique of Historical Criticism, The Assessment of Evidence, The Evolution of Method, The Nature of Historical Proof, The Use of Hypotheses."

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*History as a Science.* By ARTHUR MACDONALD. (The Congressional Apartments, Washington, D. C.: The Author, 1926. Pp. 26. Thirty-five cents.)

This rather remarkable pamphlet is issued by the author, as shown above, in this country, although the original title-page shows it to be a reprint from the *Calcutta Review* of February, 1926, published by the Calcutta University Press. The main contribution is a series of tables by which the author seeks to measure the elements of history by counting the important events. He used the recent *Reference History of the World* compiled by Professors Albert B. Hart, William S. Ferguson, Charles H. McIlwain, Everett Kimball and David M. Matteson.

His method is thus partly explained: "When the chronology reads: 'Alexander I reigns in Macedonia,' there are three important events: the mentioning of Alexander and Macedonia constitutes two, and the reigning one event."

The results of stupendous labor are packed into the slender pamphlet. It probably will never be checked for accuracy by any other human. Among conclusions reached from the tabulated events the most outstanding are the decrease of great men in the more recent periods of history and, as shown: "The greatest average number of events per year is 47.4 in the Era of Napoleon, lasting only 14 years (1800 to 1814)."

All these efforts toward definite measurement and classification are foreshadowed in the author's opening sentence: "There can be no Science on any subject, unless we can determine how many or how much, that is, the quantity."