

Fort La Corne, just below the forks of the North and the South Saskatchewan. With the exception of three all were in flourishing condition at the time La Verendrye left the West. They were all at strategic points for fur-trading, thanks to La Verendrye's wisdom arising out of countless conversations with Indian canoe-men. The establishments that were built under his direction were placed so satisfactorily that for a hundred years to come the forts built in that part of Canada by the Hudson's Bay Company and the North-West Company were close to the sites he selected."

It is, of course hoped that other editions of the book may soon be issued and made available to the general public.

EDMOND S. MEANY

Women of the West. Compiled and edited by MAX BINHEIM.
(Los Angeles: Publishers Press, 1928. Pp. 223. \$6.00).

The recent volume, *Women of the West*, covers a little known but extremely interesting field not previously touched by the biographical dictionary. It consists, as the editor informs us of "a series of biographical sketches of living eminent women in the eleven western states of the United States." The names included in the compilation were submitted by organizations, institutions and individuals interested in a work of this kind, and a selection from these lists was made by the editor's staff.

The compilation of a dictionary of biography whether of a state or a group of states requires a vast amount of research as well as rare judgment in selecting those worthy of mention in the publication. The smaller the district covered, the larger the number of persons of average accomplishment suggested for inclusion and the greater the mass of material to be studied. The difficulties of such a task are apparent in *Women of the West*. The result is a praiseworthy effort.

A careful examination of the biographies for the State of Washington discloses a great deal of valuable and hitherto unprinted material. It is quite disappointing however to find among the omissions names of sufficient importance to have been included in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Washington* as Ada W. Anderson, Mrs. Josephine C. Preston, Anna L. Guthrie, Mrs. Harriett Shaw and Mrs. Marion M. McCredie. Also out of eighteen women of Washington mentioned in Mrs. Elmendorf's article on that subject, ten fail to be included

among the biographies cited. It is by tests of this kind that the usefulness of a reference work must be determined.

The arrangement of the material in the volume is open to criticism. Instead of the well tried and very usable one-alphabet arrangement with an index by states, the biographies are segregated by states with a general alphabetical index. This has the advantage of course of showing the relative number of prominent women in each state. Each group of biographies is preceded by several short articles on the women of the state or on women in general. The space allotted to each writer is so short that the resulting articles are on the whole mere generalizations and consequently of little value as reference material. The placing of these articles is also carelessly done. It is rather startling to the Washington reader to find among the essays under Wyoming one entitled "Women of Tacoma" by Mrs. Beek of that city, while the article on "The Western Woman—Her Opportunity" under the same heading is obviously descriptive of California only.

ETHEL M. CHRISTOFFERS

The Inland Empire of the Pacific Northwest, a History. By GEORGE W. FULLER. (Spokane-Denver: H. G. Linderman, 1928. Four Volumes. \$33.00.)

The author of this new work on *The Inland Empire*, George W. Fuller, is Librarian of the Spokane Public Library and speaks of his work there "during the past seventeen years." Three volumes of this work are devoted to the history and the fourth volume is the old familiar collection of biographies disguised in this case under the title of "Who's Who." There are 294 of these brief biographies and they are not accompanied by portraits. They are, of course, useful sketches but there are many known leaders in industrial and professional life in the Inland Empire whose biographies do not appear in this collection. To that extent the title of the volume is misleading.

If asked to designate the most excellent portion of Mr. Fuller's work, it would probably be just to answer: "Bibliography." He shows admirable familiarity with the printed books, pamphlets and magazines dealing with his subject. This is probably a natural capacity for a librarian. Failure to make greater use of personal and manuscript unprinted sources probably accounts for some errors in the work. In Volume III., page 223, he makes Cyrus F. Yeaton the first Postmaster of Spokane whereas that honor