

national Relations held at the University of Washington, Seattle, July 22-27, 1928.

The Pacific Area records the inauguration of international relations conferences in the Northwest, and the distilling once more in the interests of international relations of the study and experience of widely scattered scholars, statesmen, and men of affairs.

Functioning as a summer session of the Institute of International Relations which has met each winter since 1926 at Riverside, California, this Northwest conference initiated a biennial gathering to alternate with the biennial conferences of the Institute of Pacific Relations of Honolulu.

The areas taken up were China, Japan, South America, and the British Empire; the general problems were the educational, the commercial and financial, the legal and political, the military and pacific, the social and ethical, the racial, and the research aspects of international relations; devoted to each area and problem, there was a cluster of events such as one or two addresses, conferences, and round tables. Quite frankly utilizing the presentation of conflicting policies by eminent statesmen along with the calculations of statisticians and the findings of historian, social scientist, and experimenter in international co-operation, the conference has left a report which is a credit to its editor-executives, a challenge to the internationally minded, and a body of up-to-date materials most suggestive to the historian.

MAURICE T. PRICE

Medieval Foundations of Western Civilization. By G. C. SELLERY and A. C. KREY. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1929. Pp. 633. \$3.50.)

One always approaches a textbook with mingled feelings. Practical pedagogical needs demand brevity and condensation, a limitation to which it is extremely difficult to subject the truth of historical experience. Good textbooks must be works of art, and will meet with a varied reception. This volume devotes four hundred pages to the Middle Ages and five hundred and eighty-two to the twelve centuries which lie between the decline of the Roman Empire and 1660. This requires more compression than is usually done in textbooks, especially since the authors have sought to include commerce, education, learning, the fine arts, religion, literature, and the culture of the Renaissance. Compared with other works dealing with this period, this book is certainly better in diction and in mechanical workmanship. In spite of the brief treatment the

authors have been able to avoid many of the traditional errors that obtain in textbooks. One might object to the statement that the theology of Luther was substantially like that of Zwingli. Even though individual theological points may be identical, the *Ethos* of each system was quite distinct, which is a very important thing.

HENRY S. LUCAS

The Road to Oregon, a Chronicle of the Great Emigrant Trail. By W. J. GHENT. (New York: Longmans, Green and Co., April 3, 1929. Pp. 274. \$5.00.)

The author has chosen a title different from the old familiar "Oregon Trail." He justifies the change by devoting a page as a tribute to a worthy soldier, engineer and author—General Hiram M. Chittenden—from whose *American Fur Trade of the Far West* he selects and centers the following brief quotation: "The Santa Fe Trail being first established, a signboard was later set up to show where the Oregon Trail branched off. It bore the simple legend 'Road to Oregon.' . . . Surely so unostentatious a sign never before nor since announced so long a journey."

In the Introduction, the author makes this statement: "The sources for the present work are largely the journals and travel-books of the trapper era (which over a period of many years has been a favorite field of the author's) and the diaries and reminiscences of the emigrants published in the *Transactions* of the Oregon Pioneer Associations, the *Quarterly* of the Oregon Historical Society, the *Washington Historical Quarterly* and various California publications." He mentions other sources and expresses gratitude for aid extended by other experts in the field.

Mr. Ghent came to this present task by way of work as a printer, editor and contributor to newspapers and magazines. He is now on the staff of the *Dictionary of American Biography*, Washington, D.C.

The Road to Oregon is by far the most comprehensive and authentic work yet published on the subject. The history involved is briefly but adequately indicated. The Trail is carefully followed throughout and a most helpful map faces page 8. The numerous illustrations include reprints of rare old pictures as well as others of the present time. An appendix, "Monuments and Markers," gives an opportunity to trace the activities of Ezra Meeker and others who have devoted faithful years to identifying and marking the old Trail. Now that Mr. Meeker has passed away, this book may stimulate others to assume the responsibility of placing more