

Sketches of Butte, from Vigilante Days to Prohibition. By GEORGE WESLEY DAVIS. (Boston: The Cornhill Company, 1921. Pp. 179. \$1.75.)

Mr. Davis is a much travelled man and has lived in many cities. Yet his life interests have centered in Butte. He is an artist in many lines, a painter, and a musician. Others of equal knowledge might have written chapters like these. He is the only competent one that we feel would have done so. The book is true, but not all the truth. Many of the shady colors are sketched. The brighter tints are not depicted in proportion.

We are not finding fault with Mr. Davis on account of these limitations. We wish that the book were three times as long and that he had added the remaining part of the spectrum. But this was not Mr. Davis' thought. As we have said he is an artist and criticism should be from the art standpoint. The book is not description. It is not analysis. It is not economic. It sketches. It is an impressionistic presentation of certain incidents, certain characteristics presented as a picture not delineated as a narrative. It is an artist's book.

JOHN F. DAVIES.

The Fur Trade of America. By AGNES LAUT. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1921. Pp. 341. \$6.00.)

Kings of the Missouri. By HUGH PENDEXTER. (Indianapolis. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1921, Pp. 360. \$1.75.)

The literature of the fur trade is growing apace. Since the publication of H. M. Chittenden's *The American Fur Trade of the Far West*, however, no similar work has been attempted. That work remains the most substantial and trustworthy history of the fur trade period of 1803 to 1847. The new literature treats for the most part of various detached events and limited periods.

The volumes under review make no pretention of adding to the historial knowledge of the fur trade period. Miss Agnes Laut, in *The Fur Trade of America*, has confined herself, in fact, almost wholly to the present day fur industry. She has compiled from many sources a manual of the fur business. The book is well written and furnishes many facts for all who buy, sell, or wear furs. Some of the leading topics are: Transfer of the fur markets of the world to America; false furs and fake trade names;