

BOOK REVIEWS

Fifty Years on the Old Frontier, as Cowboy, Hunter, Guide, Scout, and Ranchman. By JAMES H. COOK. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1923. Pp. 291. \$4.00.)

Of all that has been written of the cowboy and the life of the cattle range, very little has been written by the principal actors themselves. The same is equally true of the famous government scouts, mail riders and other adventurous figures, who were men of deeds rather than words. Not many possessed, like David Crockett and W. F. Cody, the power to dramatize themselves.

The author of *Fifty Years on the Old Frontier* was, however, a genuine cowboy, and he is able to recount in a most readable way his adventures over half a century. During the Seventies and part of the Eighties he rode the ranges in Texas and New Mexico. A vivid account is to be found in the first part of the book of the life of the cattlemen in the Southwest, including such details as rounding up entirely wild cattle and horses, and the conveying of droves of animals hundreds of miles through extremely rough, Indian-infested territory. Those who desire thrills can find them here.

The author served as government scout in the campaign against Geronimo in 1885, and saw later, in the North, much of the unfortunate troubles with the Sioux and the Cheyennes, whom he shows to have been shamefully misused by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Much space is given to the Sioux chief, Red Cloud, of whom Cook was a champion and faithful friend.

Not the least entertaining parts of the book are the narratives of hunts after big game in the Rockies, during the years when Cook was one of the foremost guides and hunters of the regions bordering the one transcontinental railway.

There is at times a lack of continuity in the narrative, and considerable variation in the style between the different portions of the book. This is not sufficient, however, to mar its value to the collector of material about the Old West.

CHRISTINA D. SMITH.

Alexander Ross's Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River. Edited with historical introduction and notes by MILO MILTON QUARFEE. (The Lakeside Press, Chi-