

the Indian who told these stories gave what he had gotten from his father rather than telling the tales of the locality in which he lived. This may seem like a minor point but to the ethnologist tribal differences are of utmost importance, for it is only through the records of these minor differences that the larger changes in culture can be traced.

Another difficulty in using the tales for the comparative study of local folktales is the fact that the subtitles are run utterly regardless of the unity of the incidents they head. Some have the weight of a full title, others head merely a brief paragraph. For anyone interested in Indian literary style this is most perplexing, for it is impossible to determine the length of a single story, hence the character of the plots cannot be discussed.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, the collection is a welcome one, especially since it was undertaken because of a real interest in these people and a desire to perpetuate their body of unwritten literature.

The second book deals with the Haida Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands, a tribe formerly feared by all tribes from Alaska to California. They were fearless seamen who constantly set out on marauding expeditions. The book is written by a man who has lived among these people for forty years and therefore witnessed the old life before its decay. The author has given a very readable, entertaining account, but it adds little to the information which ethnologists have gathered. It is unfortunate that his rare opportunity to observe the intimate, day by day life of the tribe was not used to greater advantage. In one of the early chapters the author states that no systematic effort had been made to study these people and their works. He is evidently not aware of the solid contributions of the Bureau of American Ethnology and of the American Museum of Natural History on these people published some twenty years ago.

ERNA GUNTHER.

Oregon Sketches. By WALLACE SMITH. (New York: Putnam, 1925. Pp. 247. \$2.50.)

In *Oregon Sketches* Wallace Smith gives glimpses of the new and glorified West, a West that is a revival of all that tradition has contributed to the term, including cowboys and Indians, guns and war paint. For the sake of the cinema "the good old West is booming along greater than ever". The "ladies" of Bootlace

Valley and Mrs. Peavy are genuine wild West, neither civilized nor stage struck; but he who seeks the wildness of former days will find it impossible to get away from the derby hat, the radio, and the sniffing, pointing tourist.

Maverick Tod Mullarky speaks regretfully and with unconscious humor of the old departed West. He recounts the myth of the Nung Nung, the legend of the cow Callahan, the saga of the original Elk and the history of Captain Jack's last stand.

Appropriate illustrations by the author add interest to the sketches.

As a picture of some of the swiftly changing phases of the West the book is of value.

ELVA L. BATCHELLER.

History of America. By CARL RUSSELL FISH. (New York: American Book Company, 1925. Pp. 570. \$1.92.)

The History of the United States. By WILLIAM BACKUS GUITTEAU. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924. Pp. 688. \$1.96.)

The Growth of the United States. By RALPH VOLNEY HARLOW. (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1925. Pp. 823. \$5.00.)

The number of general texts in American history is steadily increasing. Writing a text is, of course, one of the most difficult tasks in the world. In compressing the history of our nation, it is inevitable that fine shades of meaning be lost. There are two dangers that are equally latent in the problem. If the writer believes in a concrete presentation with ample illustrative material, his account is apt to become a manual. A manual is extremely useful, but it needs to be supplemented with more readable material. Mr. Guitteau's volume would be a good manual for secondary schools if it were accurate. That is one quality that is necessary. His work is comparatively accurate, but not absolutely so. For example, his paragraph on the "Closing of the trade routes" is a decade out of date; his statement about the stamp act is equivocal; his interpretation of Andrew Johnson's "Swing around the Circle" is inadequate; and his account of the Panama Canal negotiations in 1903 shows no evidence of research in that topic. In fact, Mr. Guitteau's book presents on the whole the conventional account, somewhat inaccurate and inadequate, and not at all de-