

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 For example, his paragraph on the "Closing of the trade routes" is a decade out of date; his statement about the stamp act is equivocal; his interpretation of Andrew Johnson's "Swing around the Circle" is inadequate; and his account of the Panama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-

signed to fill any new requirements that may be considered necessary for secondary schools.

If the writer believes, on the contrary, in a more general account, he faces the danger of leaving too much to the student's imagination. Professor Fish has written in delightful literary style a more elementary text. Professor Fish has organized his work in an interesting way, giving new titles to periods and allowing periods to overlap chronologically. He emphasizes the importance of social and economic factors, and expresses his interpretation without hesitation. The appendices are valuable additions, and at the close of each chapter, there are useful suggestions for questions, further reading and projects. Professor Harlow's book is intended for college reading. His style is delightful, also, but the account is conventional and with no particular differences to offer. It seems difficult to combine interpretation with the one-volume account. It is not at all clear why certain events are described and why others are omitted. In the preface, the writer should give a brief confession of faith in which he offers his criteria for choice of facts and tendencies. Professor Harlow's account of the Farmer's Alliance is very interesting, for example, but it is impossible to tell what he considers significant about it. The lack of rainfall, in fact, is given special emphasis. One would imagine that the hopes and fears of this insurgent group deserved some other emphasis. However, the task, at its best, is a difficult one. It may be impossible to write a one-volume text that combines accuracy of research and good literary style with a carefully established basis for the choice of facts. We need the latter especially, for, as a nation, our criteria for judgment are notably illogical and inadequate.

EBBA DAHLIN.

Raising Fur-Bearing Animals. By HARDISON PATTEN. (Chicago: C. V. Ritter, 1925. Pp. 466. \$6.00.)

This volume is written as a guide to the raising of fur-bearing animals. It is intended therefore to interest the fur farmer rather than the historian. Some brief notes are given on the evolution of the fur business however which should prove of general appeal. The work appears to be a substantial contribution to its subject. Many drawings are furnished to show the habits of the animals and modern methods of fur-farming.