

The Story of the Western Railroads. By ROBERT EDGAR RIEGEL.
(New York: Macmillan, 1926. Pp. 345. \$2.50.)

The Story of the Western Railroads by Robert E. Riegel is not for the romanticist. The development of the railroad maze is not the story of a modern Aladdin. It is rather the account of an inch by inch, month by month conquest in the threefold field of politics, finance and engineering.

Mr. Riegel has condensed a mass of facts, gleaned largely from source material, into a comprehensive survey of western railroad history from its beginning to the early years of the twentieth century. He writes without bias; he is strictly non-partisan whether he is writing of the capitalist, the politician, or the interested public. His account is an illuminating correlation of facts concerning the network of the western railroads with its manifold ramifications covering federal, state and local aid, the relation to economic prosperity and depression, the difficulties with labor, and the progress of the roads toward consolidation.

An index and a lengthy bibliography make the book useful for ready reference. The bibliography is annotated and divided in conformity with the chapter divisions. The book is undoubtedly a scholarly contribution to the field of general railroad history, a field as yet scarcely touched.

ELVA L. BATCHELLER.

A Political and Social History of the United States: Volume I. (1492-1828). By HOMER C. HOCKETT, Professor of American History, Ohio State University. *Volume II. (1829-1925).* By ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, Professor of History, Harvard University. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1925. Pp. XIV+438; and XVIII+576.)

These two volumes designed primarily as a text for college classes, though excellent reading for the general public, emphasize the growing demand for economic and social history in place of the old political outline. The result is a condensation of the purely political story and the inclusion of much new material which is sometimes woven into the political narrative and sometimes given in separate chapters. Professor Hockett devotes 166 pages of his volume to the period ending with the making of the Constitution and the balance takes the story down to the election of Jackson. The opening chapter on European Beginnings suffers slightly in literary style from abrupt condensation but the succeed-