

BOOK REVIEWS

The Aristocratic West. By KATHARINE FULLERTON GEROULD.
(New York: Harpers, 1925. Pp. 220. \$3.50.)

"The Aristocratic West" is a series of interpretive sketches of the West in general, including chapters on Salt Lake City, Oregon and Washington, New Mexico and Arizona, Reno, and San Francisco.

The first essay enlightens the reader as to the meaning of the term "Aristocratic West." To the author this is the Far West, the still romantic, very democratic, highly civilized West where "self respect, dignity," and generous consideration of the social and moral rights of others are to be found even in the common man.

In the essays which follow, Mormonism is thoroughly analyzed, the early jealousies of Tacoma, Seattle and Portland are well aired and their climate, scenery and future possibilities adequately discussed. The decaying civilizations of the Spanish and of the Pueblo Indian are made the outstanding features of New Mexico, Reno, sinister and sordid, is merely the haven of the divorceé, and San Francisco, the peer of New York City, represents all that is best in California history.

Mrs. Gerould is an entertaining, but not altogether convincing writer. Her very extravagant praise of what she is fond of, and her equally severe criticism of what she is disinterested in do not indicate a deep knowledge of her subject, but rather the superficial gleanings of the traveler which she admits herself to be.

ETHEL CHRISTOFFERS.

A History of Economic Progress in the United States. By WALTER W. JENNINGS, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economic History in the University of Kentucky. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1926. Pp. XVI 819, \$4.50.)

Economic history, says Professor Jennings, "is nothing more nor less than the explanation of the economic life of a people." As it is here treated it is more than a narrative of this life, for economic life is never isolated from the political, social, religious and racial factors. Moreover Professor Jennings lays emphasis throughout his handling of the material on the "Economic Progress" of the American people. The book is divided into five

broad divisions of increasing length. 1. The colonial period. 2. To close of the war of 1812. 3. To opening of the Civil War. 4. To 1900, and 5. The twentieth century. Within these broad divisions the treatment is in the main topical, though not entirely so. Each division contains a chapter on population, on agriculture, on manufacturers, on commerce and on finance.

Then there are additional chapters dealing with new phases of development. The Colonial division leads with a chapter on the English Commercial Policy. The third introduces discussions of the Tariff policy and the problems of labor which are continued throughout the other divisions, and also a chapter on internal improvements. The fifth division introduces the problem of immigration and a discussion of the Trust Movement and Conservation.

The book is a veritable mine of useful information and bears abundant evidence of an enormous amount of painstaking work. There are many minor errors but the marvel is that there are so few when one considers the multitudinous details involved in telling the story. The work is so exceedingly well done that it seems unappreciative to criticise, nevertheless some of the more important topics that need improvement should be pointed out. No one depending on the book alone will understand Shays' Rebellion nor the reasons for the opposition to Hamilton's financial policy. In fact it has become so customary to ignore the latter that one is tempted to wonder if American text-book writers understand the reasons for this opposition. The paragraph headed "Commercial Difficulties Primarily Responsible for the Constitutional Convention" is misleading as these commercial difficulties are there treated. The early labor movement is slighted and the organization and growth of the great railroad systems is poorly done. These however are minor faults in a very good book. The spirit of the whole story is well summed up in the closing paragraph. "America, with her wonderful resources and versatile people, by proper conservation of material resources and life and by more equitable distribution of the opportunities and rewards of life, can do away with radicalism and make this the greatest Christian nation of all times. The true patriot is one who will work for future generations, the one who obeys the law at all times, but also the one who seeks to right the wrongs which all intelligent people know exist."

EDWARD McMAHON.