

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Thomas Condon, Pioneer Geologist of Oregon..* By ELLEN CONDON McCORNACK. (Eugene, Oregon: University of Oregon Press, 1928. Pp. 355. \$2.50.)

Few recent books on any subject have been freighted with such an abundance of tender sentiment and downright love as has this biography of *Thomas Condon, Pioneer Geologist of Oregon*. Thomas Condon was "Oregon's Grand Old Man of Science." The author of the book is his beloved daughter, his pupil and his legatee.

Most of the materials with which Professor Condon worked were as hard as flint but through his long years he was himself as soft as a baby's cheek. Not in any maudlin sense is this uttered for he was a manly man. He was a Christian gentleman and a scientist. In the years of his prime he faced with splendid courage the then prevailing conflict between science and religion. His fame as a scholar is secure, not alone in the archives of geology, but in the respect of those who know. As a man he is enshrined in countless memories as a fond and wise parent, as a staunch and helpful friend, as a model citizen, as a loving and loved teacher.

Henry Fairfield Osborn, senior Geologist of the United States Geological Survey and President of the American Museum of Natural History, says in the Foreword: "Among these names, bright in the scientific history of America, is that of Thomas Condon. The romantic life of this theist and naturalist stretched across the American continent during the formative period of the sciences of geology and palaeontology and his eighty-four well-spent years as a high priest of nature qualify him to rank among the immortals."

The story of Professor Condon's life-work first appeared in his book, quaintly entitled: *Two Islands and What Came of Them*. That book was later revised and edited by Mrs. McCornack with the new title: *Oregon Geology*. This new book is a beautiful supplement to the two editions of that former work. It reveals the life of the scientist. Correspondence is assembled throwing light on the greater geological discoveries, but more than that, showing how the pioneer work by Thomas Condon drew at the time the appreciation and esteem of geologists of highest rank throughout America. Dr. Joseph Leidy, of

the University of Pennsylvania, who was accepted as one of the greatest Americans working in the field of vertebrate paleontology, manifested keen interest in Condon's Oregon discoveries. He urged further investigations and more work of collecting. Similar enthusiasm and urgings were voiced by such high authorities as Professor O. C. Marsh of Yale; Joseph Henry and Spencer F. Baird, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Edward D. Cope, Corresponding Secretary of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences; Arnold Hague, of the United States Geological Survey; J. S. Newberry, Professor of Geology of Columbia University. Professor Condon's replies to these and other correspondents show how earnestly he accepted such encouragements from eminent sources and, furthermore, they reveal how eager he was to credit soldiers, prospectors and other Oregonians who brought him fossils and specimens for study and classification. The editor has linked with these letters chapters drawn from family records and family memories. The whole is a fascinating and romantic story of an evolution from the slender beginnings in boyhood to the great achievements of ripened manhood in a field so fundamental to all other branches of knowledge. No one interested in the Pacific Northwest can afford to neglect this charming and useful book.

EDMOND S. MEANY

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*Homer in the Sagebrush.* By JAMES STEVENS. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1928. Pp. 313. \$2.50).

James Stevens' new book, a collection of short stories that appeared separately in the *Adventure Magazine* and the *American Mercury*, will appeal to those who enjoyed *Brawnyman*. Ranch men from the sagebrush country, woodsmen and mill workers of the coast, miners, teamsters, fishermen of the days before motors replaced the sails on the Columbia, move again through the Northwest of thirty years ago.

Mr. Stevens understands the migratory worker, and portrays him with sympathy and with touches of satire and humor. Most of the stories are unmarred by sentimentality. One feels that the author really captures the viewpoint of the man in the mackinaw whose "calked boots scrunched the wet boards" carrying him to his Christmas celebration in Aberdeen; the Astoria fisherman so schooled by toil that he feels no adventurous thrill at his