

BOOK REVIEWS

Forty Years a Pioneer. By W. W. BAKER. (Seattle: Lowman and Hanford Company, 1934. Pp. 257.)

This book by Mr. W. W. Baker is a Biography of his father, Dr. D. S. Baker, of Walla Walla, and more definitely, it is a narrative of Dr. Baker's business career on the Pacific Coast from 1848 until his death at the age of sixty-five in 1888. The book is carefully compiled, partly from memory, and patiently checked by the diaries and records of a man who was always meticulous about such documents. It is not a book for the trade, but is privately printed for Dr. Baker's descendants, to whom it is inscribed. It has been presented to such public libraries and friends as would be interested. Because the events recorded in this book were of importance in the early life of the States of Oregon and Washington, congratulations are due Mr. Baker for his success in putting the record in permanent form before memory and documents have ceased to be.

The format of the book is admirable, a credit to the painstaking care of the author and the artistic execution of the Lowman and Hanford Company of Seattle. The map which is printed on the inside covers, front and back, will be appreciated by studious readers for it has been prepared especially for this volume and will show the correct location of events described.

A further touch of beauty is given by the poetic tribute to the Pioneers written by Mrs. Baker, wife of the author, and in the discussion of the origin of the name "Klickitat" as applied by the Indians to the river which flows from the glaciers of Mt. Adams down to the Columbia. The word Klickitat is thought to have been chosen by the Indians to represent the sound of the "bubbling or talking water."

This book is written by a banker and shows a banker's long training *in concise* and accurate use of language. Humor is not lacking as for example in the description of how one little bed-bug, or possibly a whole family of them, had an important bearing upon the building of the first railroad in the State of Washington. The book is well written and is a fine example of what a man whose chief attention has been given, through a long life, to business can do when that attention is turned to authorship. To his surprise, perhaps, he finds that he can write a book—a good and useful book for which future generations will be grateful.

Dr. Baker's career was associated in the earlier stages with the

discovery and production of gold. His arrival on this Coast was in 1848 when the gold excitement was keen in California and at a later date he had much to do in outfitting the miners for the gold mines of northern Idaho. There is no record of his engaging in mining himself except once in a small way, but supplying the needs of others intrigued him. There is an amusing tale of Dr. Baker's crossing the Isthmus of Panama on his way to the East at an early day. The trip was a dangerous one with cases of murder and robbery often overtaking the traveller. Dr. Baker adopted a course of his own. Securing an Indian who was recommended as more or less dependable, he started over a trail that once had been travelled by Pizarro. The Indian, loaded with forty pounds of gold dust, went in front while Dr. Baker, commander of the expedition, followed, a few feet behind, bearing provisions and keeping a sharp lookout on his guide and for any possible bandits who might attack them. At night the Indian was chained to a tree and the Doctor slept with the gold. In this way they came in safety to the Atlantic Coast after fifteen days of travel.

An interesting and detailed account is given of the assaying of gold and of the method by which the value of the gold from different regions was determined. When Dr. Baker had started a store in Walla Walla, a very considerable feature of the business was the safekeeping of the sacks of gold-dust brought in by miners. These sacks were tagged and each man's sack delivered upon request after payment of a modest fee. They were kept in the safe, but when the safe was full, sacks were piled on the floor around it. None was ever stolen or lost. It was natural that a bank should develop out of these conditions and in 1869, the Baker-Boyer Bank, the first bank in the State of Washington, was born. After twenty years of useful existence, a charter was granted this institution as a national bank.

The largest undertaking of Dr. Baker was the construction of the railroad from the Columbia river to Walla Walla between the years 1871 and 1875. This, for those times, monumental enterprise is thoroughly described and the interesting facts are definitely established. Some picturesque legends of silk hats and rawhide are finally shattered but the picture of the first real railroad in Washington is accurately drawn to the great satisfaction of future historians.

Through the entire book, there emerges the picture of a man of

untarnished honor, of peculiar foresight, of strong will and of intense energy in bringing to pass things of which others only dreamed. In preserving the record of his father's active business life Mr. Baker has rendered a most useful public service.

EDWARD LINCOLN SMITH

Tests and Measurements in the Social Sciences. By TRUMAN L. KELLEY and A. C. KREY. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1934. \$3.00.)

This volume summarizes the results of a four-year study of objective tests and measurements in the field of the social studies. The project was initiated by the Commission on the Social Studies in the Schools and carried out as a cooperative effort of social scientists and statisticians. Its tone is set throughout by clash of the divergent viewpoints of these unlike groups. The result is a book with a dual personality.

The plan of the committee was to prepare new-type tests that would be valid and reliable measures of the educational values achieved by the social sciences. The project was started with high hopes. The social scientists had confidence that the statisticians would have no great difficulty in securing in the field of the social sciences measures of the same exactness they were reputed to have prepared in other areas of knowledge. The statisticians, on their part, appear to have assumed that no difficulties not already overcome in other fields would be encountered in the attempt to secure exact measurements of the changes brought about in school children by study of the social sciences.

The disappointment that followed the dashing of these high hopes permeates the entire volume. In retrospect, as Prof. Krey points out, there was little justification for the great expectations with which the project was begun. The technical experts could not begin work until the social scientists had furnished them with a statement of the ends, aims, and purposes of instruction in terms of objective knowledge. Such a statement did not exist and could not be formulated. As Professor Krey points out, ". . . it became clear that the most 'objective' fact about social science was that it was so largely 'subjective.'"

Under the handicap of this difficulty the collaborators did the best they could. The social scientists present a reasoned and careful analysis of the aims of social science instruction, albeit not in the