

was not given, at least in some parts of New York state, to schools earlier than 1791.

The paucity of records, of which the author complains on page 29, is of course actual if one considers only the records printed by the authorities at Albany. Throughout the Hudson River and Long Island counties records are frequently to be found in the offices of the town clerks which bear upon the schools of the various districts. The actual working of the law of 1795 will not be made clear until a thorough examination has been made of these records in local offices. The same is true of the statement with reference to "the meagre reports of the Regents", referred to on page 43. Many of the reports of the examinations of specific academies appear in the publications of those academies and are to be found there, even when they fail to appear in the general reports of the Board of Regents.

The author brings out, during the course of her narrative, interesting facts about educational topics which we sometimes think of as entirely modern. For example, we find that an agitation for manual training was active in 1826 (p. 46); that the same complaints on the part of adherents of the classical education were heard against anything like a practical education in 1836 (p. 48); that the district school system was felt to be just as great an evil in earlier times as it is at the present in this state (pp. 52, 53); that an excellent system of county superintendents was discontinued (p. 58); and that there was just as much aversion to paying teachers a decent wage as there is at the present time (p. 66).

It is unfortunate that the volume, so interesting in its general treatment and so filled with useful information, should have been printed in such small type, and that there should be evidence of a good deal of careless proof-reading. The index is extremely scanty, and from the bibliography there are omitted many important titles relating much more directly to educational legislation than many others which are included.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

History of Tammany Hall. By GUSTAVUS MYERS. Second edition. (New York: Boni and Liveright. 1917. Pp. xx, 414. \$2.50.)

"In most men's minds a certain spell of wonder attaches to the career and character of the Tammany Society and Tammany Hall. The long continuance of this dual power; its control of the city, infrequently interrupted, throughout the century; the nature of its principles, the method of its practices and the character of its personnel—all these combine to furnish a spectacle which exerts over the general mind a peculiar and strong fascination." With these words the author introduced the preface to the first edition, published in 1901. Curiosity led him to commence his investigation; difficulty induced him to pursue it. "The few narratives already published", says he, "were generally

found to be either extravagant panegyrics, printed under the patronage of the Tammany Society, or else partisan attacks, violent in style and untruthful in statement". His research, under these conditions, took him to the newspaper files back as far as 1789, to all available city histories and political pamphlets, to the minutes and documents of the common council of New York City and the legislative records of New York state, to the records of the courts, and to other sources too numerous to be mentioned here. "What I have sought to produce", says he, "is a narrative history—plain, compact and impartial. I have sought to avoid an indulgence, on the one hand, in political speculation, and on the other, in moralizing platitudes. Such deductions and generalizations as from time to time I have made, seem to me necessary in elucidating the narrative; without them the story would prove to the reader a mere chronology of unrelated facts." But in spite of this the author states that "the difficulties of securing the publication of this work by any of the regular publishing houses proved insurmountable". In the foreword to the present edition, he states that the first edition was to all intents and purposes "in the nature of a restricted private edition", and that for ten years prior to 1917 the work had been "in continuous demand but unavailable". An effort was made in 1913 to interest a number of publishers in bringing out a new edition, but the same reluctance to lock horns with Tammany Hall was encountered.

The narrative in the new edition covers the political activity of the Society of St. Tammany from the date of its organization in 1789 to the beginning of the last year of John Purroy Mitchel's term as mayor of New York City. A perusal of the sordid story, chapter by chapter and page by page, makes it clear that the author has in the main adhered to the policy outlined in his original preface. His book has some slight faults of diction and contains certain minor inaccuracies. For example, the name of the first mayor of Greater New York is given as "Robert C. Van Wyck", instead of "Robert A. Van Wyck" (p. 282); and at one point John A. Hennessy is referred to as "John W. Hennessy" (p. 369). There is a reference to "Corporation Council Delany (elected by Tammany Hall)" (p. 313), which should have been "Corporation Counsel Delany (appointed by a Tammany mayor)". There is a statement that charges were filed with the governor on December 12, 1915, requesting the removal of Public Service Commissioner McCall (p. 392), while a little further on it is stated that the governor removed McCall upon these charges on December 6, 1915. A present-day reader gets the impression that the author's supplementary chapters concerning the period that has elapsed since 1901 have not been prepared with quite the same painstaking accuracy as seems to characterize the major portion of the work. Perhaps for these later years the author depended too much upon his own knowledge and impressions, rather than upon historical research. But slight imperfections such as these cannot account for the difficulty experienced in securing a publisher.

The conclusion is irresistible that many publishing houses think it safer to publish thrilling political fiction than thrilling political history so far as New York City is concerned.

The author has rendered a great service. Yet, if anything, he is too optimistic. In his first preface, he said: "Imagination fails at picturing the metropolis that might have been, could the city throughout the century have been guided and controlled in the light of present-day civic ideals." Yet, in the supplementary chapters bringing the story down to 1917, an astonishing continuity of political abuses and corruption is shown. The author certainly made a mistake in departing from the rôle of the historian, in his last chapter, and assuming in a mild way the rôle of a political prophet. The book would have been stronger if he had stopped without commenting on the Mitchel administration, leaving that for a subsequent historian writing after the work of that administration was finished and the people's judgment recorded.

DELOS F. WILCOX.

Political Parties in Michigan, 1837-1860: an Historical Study of Political Issues and Parties in Michigan from the Admission of the State to the Civil War. By FLOYD BENJAMIN STREETER. [Michigan Historical Publications, University Series, IV.] (Lansing: Michigan Historical Commission. 1918. Pp. xxxiii, 401. \$1.00.)

THIS volume was begun a few years ago while the author was a graduate student in the University of Michigan, as a study for a doctoral dissertation. It sets forth the principal issues, leaders, divisions, factions, and party contests in Michigan during the quarter of a century prior to the Civil War. The volume contains a series of political maps and charts showing the geographical distribution of the voting strength of the respective parties as well as the sectional alignment in the state on questions like the tariff and internal improvement. The source and character of migration to Michigan is shown, accounting for the Jacksonian Democracy of the early Michigan voters. The local influences of the churches and of anti-slavery societies lead to the development of an anti-slavery party. It was true of Michigan that her early population came chiefly from these states, but it is quite an unsafe inference to say, as the author does, that the anti-slavery opinions of Western people were dependent on the source of their migration. Douglas came from Vermont and Lincoln from Kentucky, and the anti-slavery opinion and leadership of the Middle West below Michigan were found very largely in people of Southern antecedents. A doubtful summary of reasons is given for Michigan's anti-slavery sentiment that sound a good deal like standard pro-slavery sophistries and seem to have been suggested by the traditional apologies for slavery. Lack of knowledge of "low-grade negroes" and "typical blacks" had little or nothing to do with a people's anti-slavery convictions.