

its most useful purpose if it awakens in the reader a desire to seek these original narratives for himself.

WAYNE E. STEVENS.

*The Free Negro in Maryland, 1634-1860.* By James M. Wright, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Georgetown College. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, vol. XCVII., no. 3.] (New York, Longmans, Green, and Company, 1921, pp. 362, \$4.00.) From the presence of so many thousands of free negroes in ante-bellum times in the small state of Maryland one might surmise that their group must have attained separate organization there and a considerable measure of distinctiveness. That this was not so, is explained in this monograph's conclusion, which is a philosophical analysis of the free negro's status as a part of the "nether crust of the social body" in which the whites exercised control. "He had become such as he was, not because he was strong but because he was weak, because what was outstanding in him either served well the white man's purposes or failed to give offence that led to its suppression" (p. 335). The free negroes were "passive denizens", and the larger the proportion of them in a community the more unobtrusive must they be in order to procure toleration. In Baltimore, accordingly, there appears to have been less salience of individuals than in Charleston or New Orleans; while in rural Maryland, as elsewhere in the South, the free negro element was a self-effacing appendage to a régime shaped for the employment of slaves.

In the body of the monograph new light is thrown upon the precariousness of the freedom of negroes who had been manumitted by masters whose estates were afterward found to be encumbered with debt, and also upon the indenturing of free negro children; and of course the Maryland promotion of the Liberian project is enlarged upon. But for the most part the successive chapters are heavily buttressed elaborations of humdrum themes. The style of these chapters seems needlessly dull; for even if there were no picturesque figures among the Maryland free negroes, surely in the thousands of documents which the author has cited there must have been many more vivid passages than the few which he has quoted. Yet the conclusion lifts the book out of the class of the commonplace, for its substance is new, sound, and vital.

ULRICH B. PHILLIPS.

*A History of Lewis County, West Virginia.* By Edward Conrad Smith, A.M. (Weston, West Virginia, the Author, 1920, pp. 427.) In its history, West Virginia is a typical American state and Lewis is a typical West Virginia county. A history of this county should therefore be both of local interest and of value to the student of gen-

eral American history. Mr. Smith has successfully measured up to this opportunity, for it is just such a work that he has produced. He gives, of course, a good many details that are of interest to the people of this county only, but he also devotes considerable space to a discussion of those events and movements in which not only Lewis County but the country as a whole participated. He discusses pioneer life, describing the manners and customs of the people and detailing their thrilling experiences with the Indians; the inconveniences resulting from the lack of facilities for transportation and the changed conditions that came with the development of roads and railroads; the bitter strife that preceded and followed the secession of Virginia from the Union and the secession of West Virginia from Virginia; and finally the industrial revolution that came to Lewis County as the result of the construction of railroads and the exploitation of the mineral resources of that section. In treating these topics he has made a wise selection of materials and has presented the results of his studies in a clear and easy style.

The author does not indicate by foot-notes or otherwise the sources from which he gets his facts, except that he gives an occasional quotation from the documents. His failure to do so was probably due to the fear that cumbersome foot-notes would detract from the popularity of his book as a local history. If, however, he had made some concessions to the convenience of historical students he would have greatly increased its value as a work of scholarship without hazarding its popularity with his local *clientèle*.

O. P. CHITWOOD.

*The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South.* By Broadus Mitchell, Ph.D. [Johns Hopkins University Studies in History and Political Science, series XXXIX., no. 2.] (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1921, pp. viii, 281, \$2.50.) This is an informing book in readable English. The first chapter contains an excellent delineation of the spirit of the old South and shows the blighting effects of slavery and slave methods of growing cotton on manufacturing development. Later chapters tell of the beginnings of the cotton mills, and their early vicissitudes. There was in the South leadership of sufficient intelligence even though at that time untrained, to make use of natural resources of climate and labor and to inaugurate the present splendid development of the cotton industry.

Early leaders like Gregg and Hammett are freely quoted, newspaper files are drawn upon and much valuable information relative to the spirit and ideas of the times is given. Most of the quotations are from the Carolinas, and too little attention is paid to textile developments elsewhere. However, since the same motives and conditions prevailed generally over the South the picture drawn for the Carolinas is essentially correct for the entire section.