

the "development of the American ideal of democracy, or self government in freedom." The second volume of *A History of the United States since the Civil War* by Professor Oberholzer includes a much shorter period than the other two books (1868-1872), being an account of the early reconstruction period, the impeachment and trial of Andrew Johnson and the greater part of the first Grant administration. Covering as it does a field which has been exhaustively explored by only one other historian, James Ford Rhodes, Professor Oberholtzer's book should be read with interest by students and teachers of history. Of particular interest are the chapters on reconstructing the South, the Alabama claims (in which the author has made use of certain new sources of information), the campaign of 1868; and a graphic account of the extravagance and corruption during the era when American politics were at their lowest ebb. The vivid but sometimes biting characterization of individuals adds much to the interest of the book.

*New Viewpoints in American History*, by Arthur Meier Schlesinger (Macmillan Co., pp. x, 299), is an exposition and analysis of some of the factors which have influenced American history such as immigration, geography, economic influences, radicalism and conservatism, Jacksonian democracy, the doctrine of state rights and political parties. There is little especially new in the material presented, and not always in the point of view, but the student of political science will find a close correlation of history and government in this volume and an extremely readable account of some of the larger social and economic movements in American history.

*American Democracy*, by Willis Mason West (Small, Maynard & Co., pp. xiii, 758), is a study of American history from the old-world background down to the present day with particular reference to the constant struggle for democracy in society, politics and industry. An interesting feature of the book is the emphasis given to recent developments, practically one-fourth of the book being devoted to the period since 1876. Political and economic factors in American life are stressed, and the student interested in American government and the working of democracy will find much useful material in this book, which is written in an original and readable style.

Doubleday, Page and Co. have published a new edition of *From Isolation to Leadership* (pp. 296), by Professor John H. Latané, the original

edition of which appeared in 1918. The earlier chapter on "The War Aims of the United States" has been rewritten, and two new chapters have been added dealing with the Treaty of Versailles and the Washington conference, thus bringing the history of American foreign policy down to date.

*Behind the Mirrors* (Putmans, pp. ix, 236) by the anonymous writer of *The Mirrors of Washington* lacks many of the qualities which made the latter book so successful. The reader misses the incisive characterization of important personages, the penetrating anecdotes and the political gossip, and finds instead a rather dry, discursive and not always convincing description of what the author calls "The Psychology of Disintegration at Washington." Here and there are found a few clever thrusts and some interesting light is thrown upon the activities of the agricultural bloc. The author leaves the impression that the hope of future politics lies in organized minorities which will raise us out "of the governmental bog into which we have sunk."

The Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin has issued a pamphlet entitled an *Introduction to the Study of United States History*, by C. R. Fish (pp. 75), which contains many helpful suggestions for those who are organizing courses in American history.

Carter Godwin Woodson has written a book on *The Negro in our History* (The Associated Publishers pp. 393), which is intended primarily as a text for high school students. The general reader, however, desirous of knowing the leading facts of negro life and history in the United States will find this volume of great interest and value. Emphasis is placed upon the social developments of the race and its economic achievements, and the author has correlated the history of the negro in this country with that of the American people in general.

Among the recent University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences (vol. IX, no. 3, pp. 245) is a monograph on *English Government Finance, 1485-1558* by Frederick C. Dietz. The work is something more than a dry account of revenues and expenditures; it shows clearly that the Tudors were enabled to build up strong governments largely because of the development of new systems of revenue, and explains how the increased economic unification of England and the chief forms of wealth of the time were turned to the service of the state. The author points