

cient kitchen management. The recipe for this little book is as varied and surprising as one of Mrs. Lee's own casseroles. She writes as she cooks, with a scientific approach, a solid foundation of common sense, philosophy to blend the whole, a dash of imagination, and a sprinkle of humor to spice it. And then, most important ingredient of all, with art; for as the author reiterates, "It is not so much what goes into the pot as the way it goes in that is appetizing."

Wilfrid Thorley's anthology of French poetry, "A Bouquet From France" (Houghton Mifflin), contains one hundred French poems with English translations opposite them and brief notes about each poet. It is a good collection, containing poems of Rimbaud and Baudelaire that are seldom seen in anthologies. The translating is smooth but not outstanding, not sharp. Mr. Thorley has tried to make his translations sound like the originals but, "If sometimes I have said not what the French poets would have said had they been one of ourselves, but rather what myself would now say, I would plead that even this daring is better than, by a literal and vain fidelity, the saying of something in a manner which no poet would assume." The volume is beautifully bound and arranged. It opens with Froissart and ends with Paul Fort.

A title such as "Historical Aspects of the Immigration Problem" (University of Chicago) is hardly one to allure the general reader. Yet Edith Abbott has compiled a volume of public documents and other out of print material bearing on the story of American immigration prior to 1882 which has special value to the student of American sociology. The fact that the

material collected in this sourcebook represents a considerable number of individual contributors—from Peter Brunnholt, who wrote on "Recruiting German Immigration" in 1749-50, to the "New York Nation" editorials of 1882-3, dealing with the immigration problem at that time—lends it more color than a reference work of the kind can usually pretend to, and it is a social service contribution of unquestionable authority.

Even in our own enlightened age it is difficult, by and large, for the parallel biographer to improve on Plutarch. Yet Chesla C. Sherlock has done a good job in his "Tall Timbers" (Stratford). In period he runs from the American Revolution to the Civil War; and his towering human trees comprise a brace of "Practical Philosophers", George Mason and Benjamin Franklin; two soldiers, the immortal George and "Old Hickory"; two statesmen, Hamilton and Madison; and two popular champions, Jefferson and Lincoln. Whether or no we agree with all the author's conclusions, it must be admitted that his character studies are direct, interestingly written, and human, and the comparisons between his coupled heroes are well drawn.

Forrest Ried's "Apostate" (Houghton Mifflin) is a little book of beauty without end. Other books by this Irish Englishman — "The Bracknells", "The Spring Song", and "Following Darkness" — have revived other vivid memories; but this book does the trick in the straightforward manner of that only sort of autobiography — "the spiritual" — which counts. Poet's work, in other words. It resembles a little "The Education of Henry Adams" in its grim honesty; a little, the wistful manner of the higher notes

of Ludwig Lewisohn's "Up Stream"; a little more, perhaps, the living lyricism of Charles Baudelaire alone with his "Psyche".

"Negro Workaday Songs" by Howard W. Odum and Guy B. Johnson (University of North Carolina Press) is planned to interest the student of sociology rather than the lover of artistic folk songs. The material is taken, not from the oldest songs, the most unusual or the best, but rather from songs typical of those being made and sung today by the rank and file of Negro workers. Many of the selections are frankly the poorer versions of the better songs. Consequently there is not much duplication of the material in Dr. Scarborough's book on the same subject. Neither do the authors attempt more than the stiffly technical presentation of the sociologist. But their classification is an intelligent one, and the songs speak for themselves, giving a fascinating picture of the modern Negro.

A great number of Americans who are the proud possessors of Encyclopædias Britannica, "Cambridge Edition", think vaguely of Cambridge as Oxford's less famous sister university, and let it go at that. But if they really want to know for what the great collegiate institution behind their encyclopædiastands, Brian W. Downs's "Cambridge Past and Present" (Doran) tells the tale from the beginning to our own day so that it makes entertaining and enjoyable reading. Many charming illustrations in colors add to the attractiveness of the text. A companion tidbit volume is Oskar Teichman's "The Cambridge Undergraduate One Hundred Years Ago" (Cambridge: Heffer and Sons). It appeals specifically to the college student, and is a

meatily atmospheric and full flavored little book, in which the cant terms used in the University in 1824 form but one of numerous amusing features.

In the preface of "An Outline History of China" (Appleton) by Herbert H. Gowen and Josef Washington Hall, we find a point well taken: that past school "boning" of the history of Babylonians, Egyptians, and Persians, whose bones have been dust for many centuries, might well be balanced by present knowledge of the Chinese, "of equal antiquity and who, the only nation with immortal life, now meet us in cultural and commercial intercourse". Two specialists in the same field have joined forces to produce what may perhaps be called the best Everyman's story of China to be found. A fine map in colors and a "Students' Bibliography" add to the completeness of the work.

Since it becomes more and more evident that most of the scientific rejuvenators who have located the fountain of youth in the go-getter glands cannot prevent the artery pipes from rusting or the main heart reservoir from bursting under the strain of youth regained, Dr. Carl Ramus in his "Outwitting Middle Age" (Century) gives us new recipes. Middle age is one of humanity's chronic diseases, it seems, and can be cured. Turning from the Bible — the blind acceptance of whose dreary "The days of our years are three score and ten" tends to drive us ultimately into our graves — to Bulgaria, we find that out of 7,000,000 people no less than 3,700 are over a hundred and are still going strong. Why? They drink *yogurt* (you can get it in the tablet form in the drug stores). But this is only one of the many ways in which Dr. Ramus