ley's father was an English farmer; in 1880 crop prices collapsed and seven Brimleys (father, mother, three sons, two daughters) abandoned Bedfordshire for Raleigh, North Carolina.

H. H., who was then nineteen, thought Raleigh was "without question the damnedest place I had ever seen." He and one of his brothers set up a taxidermy business, "terms net cash—we did not ship C.O.D. to strangers." Fourteen years later H. H. became curator of the state museum of natural history—a position he filled with high ability and keen enjoyment until his retirement in 1937. The museum in the interval increased ten times over in size. H. H. lived until 1946 and he is now pleasantly memorialized by this collection of informative papers, most of which had previously appeared in technical periodicals, state publications, and neighborhood newspapers.

They are a nice blend of the scientific and the informal, with no writing down and no writing up. Some are based on personal experiences in the field, as hunter, fisherman, and observer, and some on his no less romantic life as museum curator and director. Most of the papers have a local flavor: "Old-Time Whaling in North Carolina," "Mammoths and Mastadons of North Carolina," "Cape Hatteras in Storm and Shine," "Old Times on Currituck." All of the essays are obviously the work of a man who knew the things he liked and liked the things he knew. There are nearly fifty well-selected halftone illustrations, including two of H. H., in his eightieth year, mounting a specimen of the glassy ibis.

—J. Т. W.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSO-CIATION, by Edwin Emery. University of Minnesota Press. \$3.50. Like most trade associations, that of American newspaper publishers looks to protect and improve the economic advantages of its members. But unlike other such organizations, it feels itself imbued with a Constitutional mission—"to maintain the freedom of the press whenever and wherever it may be threatened." And as a result the Association has found itself the object of pointed questioning by generations of Congressmen and pointed criticism by innumerable private citizens. Mr. Emery's history is a deadpan account of the Association from its founding in 1887 to the present, and it is possible therefore to read into its straight reporting more damaging conclusions than he may have intended. He delves into the publishers' largely successful efforts to keep second-class mailing



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privileges well below Post Office costs (publishers call this a "Governmental service"; to John Q. Taspayer it's a flat subsidy); he chronicles the Association's persistent lobbying for duty-free newsprint from Canada (while the same members editorialize elsewhere on the virtues of a high tariff), and he retells the battle of the Newspaper Guild to organize the working press (whose employers thought them "professionals"—and thus not union-fodder—at \$10 a week).

There is, however, another side. In their collective bargaining practices with the typographical unions publishers were years ahead of other industrialists, and for all the sour notes struck in ringing the bell for press freedom these businessmen have at least kept a vital medium of information clear of one-sided Government domination.

-P. R. L.

AMERICA'S CROP HERITAGE, by Nelson Klose. Iowa State College Press. \$3.50. Benjamin Franklin, and not Henry Ford, introduced the soybean to America. Moreover, he became the godfather of rhubarb pie by shipping home from Scotland in 1773 the first rhubarb seed ever seen in Pennsylvania, following it a few months

later with America's first packet of broomcorn seed. Thus, since Columbus brought the first pigs and sugarcanto. Cuba and Cartier delivered the first cabbage seeds to Canada a comparatively small regiment of men and women have literally changed the face of the continent by introducing new vegetable, fruit, and grain crops. It is with these agricultural explorers and their contributions to contemporary life that Nelson Klose deals in "America's Crop Heritage."

The author concisely describes botanical exploration by Americans from the beginning to the latter-day achievements of David Fairchild, Frank N. Meyer, and others in the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction at the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

There is good browsing here for any student of American history. And the book stands as a "must" for the agricultural historian, amateur or professional. Mr. Klose traces his story carefully, with quotations and chapter bibliography, from Sir Walter Raleigh's introduction of the "superior Trinidad tabac" in Virginia in 1595 through George Washington's search for breadfruit trees and gooseberry bushes, Thomas Jefferson's valiant experiments with silkworms, rice, olive



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trees, and clovers and on to the later contributions of Perrine, the Timbigbee Association, and the Wilkes and Perry expeditions.

Later chapters deal with the worldwide, little - known expeditions of Federal plant hunters who introduced such 1950 commonplaces as the navel orange (from Bahia, Brazil), Golden Delicious apples (Russia), winter wheat (Germany, via Russia), and avocados (Guatemala).

--R. W. H.

A TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DOMINIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, by Thomas Pownall, edited by Lois Mulhearn. University of Pittsburgh. \$10. Thomas Pownall made a career as an eighteenth-century colonial governor (Massachusetts and South Carolina) but during the Revolution supported the British Government's cause as a member of Parliament. The knowledge he picked up in America enabled him to publish in London in 1776, virtually at the moment of the birth of the United States, a "topographical description" that has long been prized by scholars for its rarity and the usefulness of its information. Eight years later Pownall revised and enlarged his work, but this second edition never reached the public until its recent publication by the University of Pittsburgh Press. This handsome volume contains two gatefold maps, two facsimile holograph manuscripts, and a facsimile pen-and-ink sketch by the author. -W. W.

NATIONALISM AND SECTIONAL-ALISM IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1852-1860, by Harold Schultz. Duke. \$4.50. Perhaps more than any other Southern state, South Carolina was a hotbed for independence movements in the three decades before the War Between the States. Yet until the appearance of Dr. Schultz's monograph South Carolina was the only state which joined the Confederacy whose secession movement had never received book-length examination. Dr. Schultz here concentrates on the political events within the Palmetto State and the attitude of her citizens to the controversial national problems during the eight years that preceded Fort Sumter. Although analyticallyminded specialists in Southern history will be grateful for the data the author has accumulated by combing the archives, the general reader will be especially attracted by the flowing narrative in which he has couched his eventful and often tempestuous tale. Another heartening example of the recent flowering of Southern historical scholarship.

--M. E.

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Seeing Things

CHARLES THE FIRST AND ONLY

T IS A little late to discover Charlie Chaplin. Did seven cities claim Homer? Mr. Chaplin has long since belonged to the world. To rediscover him, however, is an experience not easily matched and not soon to be forgotten. "City Lights."* now being shown again, makes this possible. It is a comedy in a class by itself, created by a comedian who has no equals. In the twenty years which have passed since this particular film was made Hollywood has provided moviegoers with no humor more robust, no laughs more plentiful, and no artistry more safely beyond dispute. That is, of course, except when Mr. Chaplin (not the changed and dapper "Charles" of "Monsieur Verdoux," but "Charlie" the immortal tramp of the good old days) has offered himself his only competition in such productions as "Modern Times" (1936) and "The Great Dictator" (1940).

"The Jazz Singer" was three years old when Mr. Chaplin wrote, directed, starred in, and arranged the musical background for "City Lights." In other words, the screen had already lost the gift of silence and found its voice. A major revolution had occurred on the lots. The talkies had arrived and were here to stay, in spite of the protests of some of us who, in our loyalty to the older form, loudly complained that the movies had developed adenoids.

Mr. Chaplin was one of the people who resisted the talkies. He had his excellent reasons for so doing. He was a man who found words superfluous. His pantomime was (and remains) the most eloquent of languages. Accordingly in "City Lights," save for some mumbled gibberish at the beginning which spoofed the noises then released by sound tracks, Mr. Chaplin dispensed with spoken speech. In its place he continued to supply that wordless eloquence of his which to this day reminds us of what the motion pictures lost, regardless of their gains, when their actors started talking.

The silence of the silent screen

*CITY LIGHTS, a reissue of the Charles Chaplin film made in 1930. Written, directed, and produced by Mr. Chaplin. Musical score arranged by Mr. Chaplin. With a cast including Charlic Chaplin, Virginia Cherrill, Harry Myers, Hank Mann, etc. Released through United Artists. At the Globe Theatre, New York City.

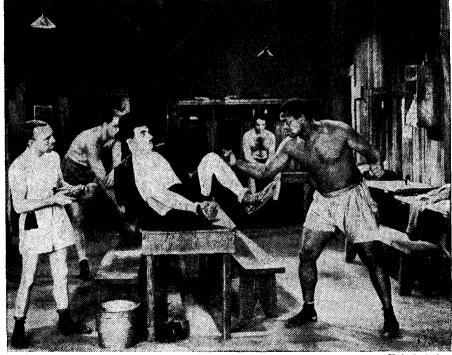
could, of course, be absurd. It could force players into pantomime of the most ridiculous and exaggerated kind. It could result in eye-rollings, shoulder-shruggings, hand-wavings, forehead-wrinklings, heart-claspings, liptremblings, and face-makings which were parodies of the very emotions they were supposed to convey. Yet at their best the silent movies managed to meet, and meet excitingly, the demands of a medium which, since it was camera-born, was meant to be visual. The more triumphant of them relied as little as possible even on printed titles. They spoke for the eye and to the eye in terms of motion. Gesture, movement, and facial expression served them as their vocabulary. Music helped; settings, lights, and shadows also made their important contributions. But the most telling dialogue at the disposal of an actor or an actress was what he or she succeeded in saying without the use of words.

No one in the history of the motion pictures has been able to say so much as the Mr. Chaplin who in "City Lights" is never heard saying anything. He speaks without speaking and says mouthfuls without opening

his mouth. Were he to appear before the U.N. the delegates would not have to put on their earphones to understand him. His language is unconfined by frontiers. It is the only real Esperanto. Paragraphs could not make clearer what he is thinking or feeling, suffering or enjoying, doing or planning to do than a shrug of his tiny shoulders, a glint that lightens his dark eyes, or a smile that sweeps across his face. Voiceless as his communication is, it is complete and limitless in its variety.

Everything has long since been said about Charlie Chaplin that can possibly be said. While the public has been sensible enough to sit back and enjoy him, those of us who are reviewers have been forced to raid our dictionaries and pucker our brows in the vain hope of trying to capture his qualities and define his art. We have seen him as the symbol of all human loneliness. We have described him as the little man at whom all little men could laugh because his misfortunes were worse than theirs. We have pointed out (who could miss it?) the wonderful manner in which the comic and the pathetic are mingled in his work. We have Pagliacci'd him and in our fancier moments written rapturously about the poetry of his pantomime. Yet, in spite of all our brave attempts and big words, the silent Mr. Chaplin of the baggy pants, the battered derby, the bamboo cane, the pinched coat, and the diverging shoes has always been able to say more for himself than any of us have been able to say about him.

"City Lights," as almost all movie-



---United Artists

"Charlie Chaplin . . . says mouthfuls without opening his mouth."