

Book Notices

a tale as to how they obtained the journals" (173). The other two journals Mr. Purdy secured from two great-granddaughters of Sylvester Daniels.

For this volume to be of greater value to individuals interested in the history of the West at the end of the nineteenth century more research on Sylvester Daniels and his family needs to be done. Most important, the volume needs commentary on how typical or atypical Sylvester Daniels was in comparison with others who made the trek west in the 1870s.

COE COLLEGE

ROSEMARY F. CARROLL

Emily: The Diary of a Hard-Worked Woman, edited by Janet Lecompte. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987. viii, 166 pp. Notes, index. \$18.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper.

On New Year's Day, 1890, a divorced Colorado woman—and former Iowa resident—began keeping daily accounts of her working and family experiences. For the next year forty-seven-year-old Emily French used her diary to record her feelings about the menial duties she performed as a nurse and domestic servant; her frustrations in trying to support herself, her sister, and two of her children; and her attempts to build a respectable home for herself in the Denver community. Lecompte reproduces French's remarkable diary entries in full, altering them only by adding appropriate punctuation. Lecompte divides the diary into four seasonal sections and includes a brief introduction to each section as well as a general introduction and epilogue to the diary, which provide additional information about French's life and a context for the events that French recorded.

French's diary provides a rare glimpse into the life of a female day laborer in the nineteenth century. Despite her lack of education, the tedious nature of her work, the numerous demands on her time, and her general fatigue, French left behind a vivid account of her life as a single working woman. Lecompte's introductory essays and epilogue add to that portrait and provide a fine methodological model for other historians in her reconstruction of French's life from manuscript census data, local newspaper accounts, and homestead and court records.

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KATHERINE JELLISON

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