

SOME PUBLICATIONS

A Boy Again and Other Prose Poems. By WILLIAM MILLER BEARDSHEAR. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Republican Printing Company. 1904. Pp. 234, xxv.

This publication is a work of love upon the part of a half dozen of the choicest friends of Dr. Beardshear who desired "to have in hand in permanent form some of the revelations of himself which he gave in his essays and addresses." It is in every detail, even in the simplicity and elegance of the typography, a worthy memorial of him which will be precious to hosts of Iowans and of value to the world.

It is fitting that the memorial should consist, after the concise biographical sketch by Professor Loos, and the twenty-five pages of appreciations from Mr. S. H. M. Byers, Hamlin Garland, W. R. Boyd, Professors Cessna and Stanton, of typical selections from Dr. Beardshear's pen and addresses. It may justly be called "The Book of Revelations of Beardshear, the prose poet." He truly says, "We are all poets, only like the stars in glory differing in magnitude." He well illustrates another statement of his, "The poet is a philosopher by seership" (p. 60). He proves his title of prose poet by the very language he uses, and meets his own canon: "The poet is able to give emotions interwebbed of the soul, a language fit to their intrinsic worth."

His vocabulary demonstrates this in many original forms. He uses unexpected prefixes—"aside the window sill," "engathered," "enrippled," "beglistened," "begladdened," "besmall." This is also true of suffixes—"birthful," "entrustment," "enthusement," "mankinned," "clothure," "languageless," "everydayness." He uses the Anglo-Saxon and German liberty in compounding—"seagirded," "world-formers," "all-things-are-yours spirit," "all-sided-

ness," "century-full," "battle-armed." Almost with the freedom of an Elizabethan, according to the office of the word rather than according to its stereotyped form, he transmutes ordinary parts of speech—"happified," "essenced," "homed," "birthed," "empicturing," "I cans." He did not hesitate to coin words like "enskyment." Archaic forms, some of them living in dialectal speech, appear—"conflictions," "wonderment." The Norman arrangement of the adjectives is not uncommon—"a delight supreme," "knights of mettle true," "heroes bold." Occasionally there is almost a Shakespearean metaphor, like "melody in feathers," for a bird.

Feeding on the poets it is not wonderful that Dr. Beardshear was poetic. Not less than thirty-three poets are referred to or quoted in these pages. The names are about equally divided between the English and American, and they range from Shakespeare to Browning, from Bryant to Whitman and Sill; but five authors whose ideas pervade his works he especially lived by. He names them as the few who, "like Browning, Plato, Ruskin, Emerson and Shakespeare, foster one's maturest years and nurture his highest ideals." "Like the few friends out of a thousand in a full life they grow in affection and helpfulness with the swiftness of the hours and years."

Another great source of his thought is what he calls "our great text-book, the Bible." In another place he says, "the fire arm of nations is more closely allied with the almighty arm of God—the *Bible*." "Bullets have become John Baptists to clear the way for Bibles and humanity." He was more at home with the prophets and was essentially one of them. He never ceases to be the preacher, and in every selection we find him using a text of holy, or other, scripture, for he had come to a view expressed in one of his epigrams, "Religion embraces all the tenets of culture, conserving the essences of creeds, expressive of the purposes and sympathies of Jesus Christ, and is the realizing and masterful outgrowth of the consummate beatitude of a good life."

The most powerful and pathetic of the selections is the one "A

Boy Again Just for a Night," in which in heroic fashion he revealed the motherhood in the heart of a man when, as a child in his forties, in the night watch he communed in her last hours with his dying mother. Indeed, "mother and child shared the holy abandon of true affection." Out of the depths of his soul's experience to which nature, the birds, the drama and poetry are attuned, breathes the benediction of motherhood and comes the truth that "there is a motherhood in a man's heart as in woman's."

It is the personal touches to those who knew Dr. Beardshear which make the book inspiring. Personality was with him fundamental and poetic. He says, "The outcome of all individual effort, of all organization, should be the growth in the originalities of each personality." He showed what he named the "royal primacy of individual character." His greatness appeared in that with the emphasis he put upon individuality he did not run into eccentricities. His words reveal in part what kept him in balance. "Many mediocre men are spoiled as well as great ones by wanting to be something of themselves and alone. They fear to do anything that will strengthen the administration of another and build a neighbor's advantage. The principal question is our own fidelity in the common spheres of life."

Beardshear, the lover of solitude and naturally a mystic, was perhaps saved from closing in upon himself by his childhood christian training and by the illimitable reaches of nature and human activities in the West. He was thus led to say in one of his discourses, "the primal virtue is appreciation. Appreciation is simply placing a just value upon the body and its life, money and its mission, man and his destiny, life and its purposes. He must appreciate his own partialities."

His twenty-one years as a school man in Iowa, to which he sacrificed his life through overwork, rounded out his character. In his last address he laments, "We have made of the presidents of our colleges and universities business managers." Fortunate are we if he has taught us that the essential poet and the president of an agri-

cultural college are not an incongruity, and that in all great enterprises it is still necessary to have a poet in the original sense of the word, the maker, the creator.

With the many who knew him let me close by saying in his own words, "I have come in these recent years to feel that life is easier by reason of our friends in the good world. Our friends in Heaven, like the life of the Savior of men on earth, humanize our relations to that bright mystery world. We have no fear of injustice from those who know us best and love us most. Our shortcomings, our limitations, and soul constraints are tempered by the thought of trusted ones ministering in Heaven."

GEORGE E. MACLEAN

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

The Iowa Year Book of Agriculture. Issued by the Iowa Department of Agriculture. Edited by J. C. Simpson, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. Des Moines: Bernard Murphy, State Printer. 1904. Pp. 736. Portraits, plates.

The volume with the above title is the fourth *Year Book* issued by the Iowa Department of Agriculture as the Department is now constituted, the first having been issued in 1901 for the year 1900. The *Year Book*, however, is the lineal successor of the annual report of the Iowa Agricultural Society issued consecutively from 1855 to 1899 inclusive, save for the years 1861-62 when only one volume was issued. The Society, however, held its first fair in 1854, a history of which was published in the annual report for 1874. The forty-eight volumes so far issued by Iowa for the benefit of the agricultural and live stock interests contain in a way the documentary history of rural industrial effort in Iowa for the past half century or practically since the founding of the Commonwealth.

The volume at hand is made up of twelve parts. Part I, or the first hundred pages, is devoted to a report of the proceedings of the State Farmers' Institute and Agricultural Convention held at Des

Moines in December, 1903, with a synopsis of the board and committee meetings. Farmers' conventions in some form as county, district, or State meetings have been popular during the past decade. A cursory glance through the pages of the proceedings impresses the reader with the thought that the speeches and discussions possess both earnestness and virility. Part II, or the next sixty-four pages, contains the report of the Iowa Weather and Crop Service for 1903—in itself a valuable treatise on Iowa climatology. The report includes a lucid paper on the *Physiography of Iowa*, by Dr. Calvin as well as crop reports, climate discussions, and crop summaries. Part III, pages 165–182, contains an epitome of the proceedings of the Iowa Swine Breeders' Association, the meeting having been held June 16, 1903, at Des Moines. Part IV, pages 183–204, is made up of extracts from the Dairy Commissioner's report for 1903. Part V, pages 205–334, contains the proceedings of the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the State Dairy Association, held at Waterloo, November 18–20, 1903, and also the proceedings of the National Dairy Union held at the same time and place. Part VI, pages 335–476, is devoted to papers on live stock and agricultural topics. A large number of papers, mostly short ones, are given and something seems to be presented upon almost every phase of rural economy. This part also includes the proceedings of the Iowa State Drainage Convention which was held at Ames, January 15 and 16, 1904, when the Iowa Drainage Association was organized. The proceedings of this convention have been also published in pamphlet form.

Part VII, pages 477–519, is devoted to poultry topics. Farmers' Bulletin, No. 51, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on *Standard Varieties of Chickens*, along with other papers and excerpts taken from various sources and treating of related subjects, are here reprinted. Part VIII, pages 521–620, includes a selection of papers read before the various Farmers' Institutes held throughout the State. Seventy papers on practical rural topics written by practical people were selected from the hundreds read and which cover an interesting variety of topics. Part IX, pages 621–629, gives short

descriptions of certain farm courses offered at the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Part X, pages 631-658, contains a compilation of Iowa laws relating to farming and stock raising industries in Iowa. Part XI, pages 659-678, gives matter concerning the Iowa State Fair, its early history, etc. Part XII, pages 679-725, contains the reports of the secretaries of the various county and district agricultural societies of the State.

T. J. FITZPATRICK

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

The American City: a Problem in Democracy. By DELOS F. WILCOX, Ph. D. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1904. Pp. 423.

The book here under consideration is the seventeenth in that popular series in Economics, Politics, and Sociology known as *The Citizen's Library*, so ably edited by Professor Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin. In *The American City* it is the author's desire to set forth what he considers the fundamental principles of the American city problem. The American city problem is a national problem in his opinion because: (1) democracy has suffered much from its contact with city conditions; (2) the city tends to impose its ethical and social ideals upon all, irrespective of residence; and (3) just "as the accumulation of enormous wealth in the hands of one man without a corresponding responsibility for its use with reference to social welfare is a positive menace to the general well-being, so the concentration of wealth in a single city, without a clear recognition on its part of its duty to the State, becomes dangerous to the public weal." The salvation of the city is a greater democracy. Cities should be thrown upon their own political responsibility; democracy in them should be perfected, and they will become the allies of the masses of the people.

The way in which the functions of city government are working themselves out are considered in the chapters on: *The Street; The Control of Public Utilities; Civic Education; The Control of Lei-*

sure; Municipal Insurance; Civic Coöperation; Social Centers of Civic Life; Popular Responsibility; Official Responsibility; Municipal Home Rule; Municipal Revenues; Municipal Debt; and a Program of Civic Effort. Most of these problems were considered more or less in detail in the author's *The Study of City Government* which appeared some years ago. The wealth of municipal literature which has come into existence since that time has made it desirable to restate many of our municipal problems in the light of this recent data. The work is attractive and readable and is a welcome addition to the literature of Municipal Government.

FRANK EDWARD HORACK

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

Proceedings of the Iowa Park and Forestry Association. Third Annual Meeting. Des Moines, Iowa. December 7 and 8, 1903. Iowa City, Iowa: Published by the Association. 1904. Pp. xiii, 173. Portrait, plates.

This volume is the third annual issued by the Iowa Park and Forestry Association, an organization devoted to the promulgation of the doctrine of things beautiful as brought forth by natural or created parks and forests. Judged by this volume the association is in a flourishing condition, as the style, makeup, plates, and reading matter are all of a high order. The publishers have done their work in a creditable manner and the result is an attractive volume for which the reader will have nothing but praise.

The Annual Address by the President of the association, Professor T. H. Macbride, forcibly presents the plans and aspirations of the association. A few sentences from the address are here given:—"And surely we have to-night great encouragement, and our success—has it not been conspicuous in every way? What public improvement has ever met more cordial welcome at the hands of an appreciative public? Who is there who understands our efforts who does not bid us God speed? We have the unanimous support of the

newspapers of our State. One enthusiastic friend declares our present endeavor 'the most important now before the people of Iowa.' The effort to care for trees, make our cities, our towns, our homes, wherever they are, clean and beautiful, and so sane and healthful and happy, is something that commends itself to every citizen in the mere statement of the case. Iowa is so fertile, its soils lend themselves so easily to the horticultural and arboricultural interests of men, that we may more speedily here than elsewhere transform to noble purpose the face of nature. The people have already tried it and are, therefore, the more ready to push forward.

"To feed the mind on that which is fair, and fill the hall of memory with imagery sweet, and pure, this is to live in sense profound! Such was the wisdom of Goethe; such must be our wisdom if we continue as a people. It is for reasons such as these that rural living has always possessed special charm for scholars and lovers of men in every nation and in every age."

The leading formal papers are: *Why is Tree-planting a Failure*, by Thomas H. Douglas; *The Chemistry of the Forest*, by Professor J. B. Weems; *Advancement in American Forestry*, by E. E. Faville; *Tree-planting on Our Northern Prairies*, by W. A. Burnap; *The Phenology of our Trees*, by Charlotte M. King; *Present Condition of Iowa Forests*, by L. H. Pammel; *The Economic Value of Our Iowa Birds*, also *Nesting Sites for Birds*, by J. T. Bailey; *Civic Improvement in a Prairie Town*, by Dr. F. L. Rogers; *The Architect and the Landscape Artist*, by O. H. Carpenter; *Greenhouse Plants for Park Purposes*, by J. T. D. Fulmer; *Starting a Lawn*, by Carleton R. Ball; *Ornamental Hedges*, by E. E. Little; *Railroad Parking*, by J. Sexton; *Parks for Small Cities and Villages*, by Frank H. Nutter; *The Township Parks*, by Sidney A. Foster; *The Improvement of School Grounds*, by R. C. Barrett; *A Systematic Study of Trees in Our Public Schools*, by Grace Troutner; *The Systematic Agitation of Improvement of Public Grounds*, by C. R. Scroggie; *Out Door Art and Morals*, by D. W. Wylie; *The Boy and the Tree*, by Henry Sabin; *The Trees*, by Dr. A. B. Storms;

and *Philip M. Crapo*, an appreciation, by Edwin M. MacMinn, the portrait of the late Mr. Crapo being the frontispiece to the volume.

T. J. FITZPATRICK

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY

How George Rogers Clark Won the Northwest, and Other Essays in Western History. By REUBEN GOLD THWAITES. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1903. Pp. xx, 378.

This little volume is a collection of essays upon incidents in the early history of the Middle West. That they are entertaining and full of interest needs but the name of the author to suggest. The volume has unity in the relation which the several narratives bear to a particular section of country and a special time of portrayal; and each essay keeps this idea distinctly before the mind of the reader.

Of the essays the most ambitious, and perhaps the most noteworthy in some respects, is the one which gives the title to the volume. Here the relation of the work done by the Virginia and Kentucky settlers to the work of Jay and Franklin in negotiating the articles of the treaty closing the War of Independence is clearly shown. Our possession of the Northwest Territory was without doubt the strongest factor in the negotiations and probably decided the question as to whom that territory should belong.

One other essay of great interest, and bearing with it a sympathetic touch which perhaps no one else could give as well as Mr. Thwaites, is the story of the Draper manuscripts and of Mr. Draper the collector. The patient, persisting toil of such a life may well excuse, nay rather justify, the failure to put this material into synthetic form. His is a good example to set before the younger generation of searchers after historical material.

The volume, beyond the interest which it carries for historical students and general readers, presents exactly the kind of matter which is most helpful to the young reader. The truthfully told stories of the privations and sufferings of the early explorers and

settlers and the greatness of their work for the future of the country for which they toiled and suffered are narrated with that sympathy which is the true inspiration to American patriotism.

H. G. PLUM

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Sciences for 1903. Volume XI. Edited by the Secretary. Published by the State. Des Moines: B. Murphy, State Printer. 1904. Pp. xi, 282. Portrait, plates.

This volume contains the proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Session of the Iowa Academy of Sciences held at Iowa City, April 14 and 15, 1904, along with the various papers presented at the meeting. The volume compares favorably with its predecessors and shows a considerable increase in size over the volume issued for 1902. The text is generally well edited and the illustrations are very good. By this book our knowledge is increased or summarized in a number of lines of research.

The presidential address is on *Two Centuries of North American Lichenology*, by Bruce Fink. The address is accompanied by a portrait of the late Edward Tuckerman, the one-time leader of American Lichenologists. Other papers are: *The Animal Cell in the Light of Recent Work*, by Gilbert L. Houser; *The Importance of Vital Statistics in the Study of Social Science*, by Gershom H. Hill; *A Geological Situation in the Lava Flow with Reference to the Vegetation*, by Harriet M. Clearman; *The Furcula in the Collembola*, by J. E. Guthrie; *Stereoscopic Projection in Natural Colors*, by C. F. Lorenz; *A Contribution to our Knowledge of the Development of Prunus Americana*, by R. Earle Buchanan; *The So-called Dorsotrachealis Branch of the Seventh Cranial Nerve in Amphiuma*, by H. W. Norris; *The Vagus and Anterior Spinal Nerves in Amphiuma*, by H. W. Norris; *A Buried Peat Bed in Dodge Township, Union County, Iowa*, by T. E. Savage; *Some Bacteriological Exam-*

inations of Iowa Waters, by L. H. Pammel, R. E. Buchanan, and Edna L. King; *Some Features in the Analysis of Dolomite Rock*, by Nicholas Knight; *The Sioux City Water Supply, III*, by Alfred N. Cook; *A New Deposit of Fuller's Earth*, by Alfred N. Cook; *The Lichens of "The Ledges," Boone County, Iowa*, by Katy A. Miller; *A Method for the Determination of Chloric Acid*, by W. S. Hendrixson; *The Action of Chloric Acid on Metals*, by W. S. Hendrixson; *Periodical Literature in Iowa on the Subject of Chemistry*, by W. S. Hendrixson; *Regeneration in the Crayfish*, by John J. Lambert; *A Chemical Study of Rhus glabra*, by A. W. Martin; *Notes on the Position of the Individuals in a Group of Nileus vigilans Found at Elgin, Iowa*, by G. E. Finch; *The Action of Sodium Thiosulphate Solutions on Certain Silver Salts*, by W. M. Barr; *New Method of Cohesion of Water and Adhesion of Mercury Apparatus*, by Edwin Morrison; *A Convenient Voltaic Cell*, by L. Begeman; *Flora of Emmet County, Iowa*, by R. I. Cratty; *Remarkable Occurrence of Aurichalcite*, by Charles R. Keyes; *Certain Basin Features of the High Plateau Region of Southwestern United States*, by Charles R. Keyes; *Note on the Carboniferous Faunas of Mississippi Valley in the Rocky Mountain Region*, by Charles R. Keyes; *A Preliminary List of the Flowering Plants of Madison County*, by H. A. Mueller. There is also in the book an appreciation of the late Ferdinand Reppert, by Professor B. Shimek.

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