



Book Reviews

THE MAGNATE. The story of William Boyce Thompson and his times. By Hermann Hagedorn. Reynal and Hitchcock, Inc., New York City. \$3.00.

The Magnate is essentially the story of a period rather than a biography; the emphasis placed on Thompson only makes the more real that hectic period of his lifetime, 1869-1930, when the world was money-mad. Thompson's dizzy speculations before the great war with amounts of money almost astronomical in magnitude are described in a major portion of the volume and form a part of the story of the rise of copper mining in the West as seen through the eyes of Wall Street. For example, the development of Shannon and Inspiration mining properties in Arizona are, to Hagedorn, but two incidents in Thompson's mad rush toward fortune and power. The tricks and betrayals of the speculator as he booms mining stock to colossal heights and then suddenly brings the price tumbling down to pitiful lows is handled by the author with his sympathies on the side of the speculator.

Throughout the story one catches in Thompson the crude individualism of the miner; one sees

the triumph of the miner's ideal of simple fact over laborious theory, the rough generosity of a spirit ruthless in punishment and then at the next moment helpful. One cannot but be interested in the results achieved by this frontier philosophy when Thompson became an angel of the Republican party in New York, and again when Thompson headed the American Red Cross in Russia and served as President Wilson's unofficial representative during the historic days of the Red revolution. *The Magnate* has its place as a contribution to an understanding of the part copper mines and miners had in Wall Street.

ARCUS REDDOCH.

THE DOMINICAN MISSION FRONTIER OF LOWER CALIFORNIA. By Peveril Meiggs, 3d. Berkeley, University Press, 1935. vi+232 pp., 19 plates, 24 figures, 1 map.

This is a scholarly book based upon five field trips to the Frontera and a careful use of materials in the Bancroft Library, University of California, written by an exponent of the culture-geography school. The Frontera is that region between the old Franciscan missions of San Fernando de Velicata (30° N.) and San Diego (33° N.). Within the Frontera the author recognizes four distinct natural regions whose occupation he traces through the "Indian," "Mission," and "Post Mission" culture stages. A map, photographs and tables add value to this useful addition to Dominicana, regional geography, and Lower California history.

THEODORE E. TREUTLEIN.