

Notes & Queries

THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will hold its annual meeting this year in Miami, on March 26, 27, and 28. Headquarters will be at the Miami Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. Joint hosts will be The Historical Association of Southern Florida and The University of Miami. John G. McKay, Vice-president of the state society, is acting as general chairman for all local arrangements; Gaines R. Wilson, Secretary of the Historical Association of Southern Florida and a director of the state society, is chairman of the committee on program; Mrs. James M. Carson is chairman of the committee on exhibits; Miss Pauline Corley is chairman of the committee on publicity; and Mrs. Thomas P. Caldwell is chairman of the committee in charge of registration. Everyone has been working hard now for several months; the program is planned and a splendid exhibit of Floridiana is arranged. We hope that every member of The Historical Association of Southern Florida will be able to attend.

A NEW FLORIDA HISTORY for which many of us have been waiting has just come off the press: *Florida, Land of Chance*. By Kathryn Trimmer Abbey (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941. pp. 426. Bibliography, illustrations. \$3.50). Mrs. James M. Carson reviews it for us: "At long last has appeared a single volume which can be offered without the slightest apology in reply to the oft-put question, 'Can you recommend a good general history of Florida?' Dr. Abbey's volume is a concise reconstruction of each phase of Florida's development since its recorded history began. Although the state has long felt the need of a scholarly and comprehensive history, not until now have circumstances been right for its appearance. It was necessary for the right historian to appear simultaneously with new and adequate achievements in the field of research. It is Florida's good fortune that the "right historian" for the task has turned out to be Dr. Abbey, who as Professor of History at The Florida State College for Women has for years conducted seminars in the field of Florida history. She has spent many years herself ferreting out facts concerning obscure details of our state history, and tracing, with the objective approach of the modern historian, the genesis of Florida's contemporary life.

"The compression of more than four centuries of activity into sixteen chapters is evidence," Mrs. Carson continues, "of Dr. Abbey's skill in evaluating historical events, and of her courage in the matter of eliminating irrelevant materials. In her preface she warns readers that the narra-

tive she presents is not 'definitive.' The citations and the bibliography, however, are ample guides for readers who wish to delve deeper into any phase. In one special sense, her bibliography even surpasses that of Dau in his *Florida Old and New*, for Dr. Abbey has shared with her readers her own intimate knowledge of the many monographs published in *The Florida Historical Quarterly* and of many unpublished theses.

"What has Dr. Abbey set out to do in this volume? She explains her objectives in her preface, where she writes, 'Its purposes are confined to relating the Florida of the present to the larger tides of human thought and behavior, tracing the factors which have contributed to making her what she is, and seeking to explain what she has done with the stuff of her existence.' With a modesty that goes hand in hand with her ability, Dr. Abbey confesses that she has not had the last word. 'Before the true story of the state stands revealed,' she continues, '. . . much that lies hidden must be recovered. The archives of Spain and England have even yet unexplored areas, while in the state itself there is a large amount of material, the value of which the owners do not recognize. Many men and women of ability and scholarship are working energetically on those things, and the writing of much of Florida's history must await the results of their efforts.'

"In all," writes Mrs. Carson, "it is a splendid book. The public will read it for general information. Students will read it, often appreciating the things not said as much as those described. From the social, political, educational, and economic approaches, Dr. Abbey has described the way in which Florida 'has shared in the unfoldment of larger areas, a section, a nation, to a colonial empire,' and she leaves the state just where it has been for centuries and where it is today—'at the meeting of two cultures, the Anglo-Saxon and the Hispanic'."

OUR LIBRARIAN REPORTS that, thanks to the cooperation of The University of Miami, a special room equipped with a fireproof vault has been set aside to accommodate the collection of the Association. The library is growing, slowly, but very surely. Among recent accessions is a batch of early Florida newspapers, telling in detail of the hurricane of 1906: *The Daily Miami Metropolis*, October 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24, 1906; *The Key West Inter Ocean*, October 19, 1906; *The Miami Evening Record*, October 19, 21, 23, 24, and 25, 1906; and *The Miami Morning News*, October 19, 20, 23, 24, and 25, 1906. Mrs. James M. Carson has contributed to the library a valuable collection of thirteen early Florida maps, and her class in Florida History at the University has presented dozens

of valuable histories of the state. Governor Spessard L. Holland has recently sent us a specially inscribed copy of Richard L. Campbell's *Historical Sketches of Colonial Florida*. Miss Codelia Leffler has deposited a collection of eleven old Miami City Directories. Mr. Watt Marchman, Librarian of the Florida Historical Society, has sent us a valuable file of back numbers of *The Florida Historical Quarterly*.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS. The editor of Tequesta will appreciate hearing from members of the Association, or from anyone interested in the history of this area, of problems of research in which they or other individuals are at present working. For example, we know now that Professor Walter Scott Mason is at present at work on an extended study of Florida in American Fiction; that Professor Leonard Muller is interested in the history of the old Coconut Grove Library; that Dr. McNicoll has been working for years on the early Spanish missions of Southern Florida; that Mrs. Carson has done valuable work on filibustering during the Spanish-American War; that Dr. Doren Tharp has begun to collect the folk songs and ballads of the Florida keys; that Miss Marie Louise Cappick, of Key West, has been for a long time at work on a history of that city; that Mr. Agnew Welsh has devoted a lot of time to the study of early Florida archaeology; that Dr. John C. Gifford is interested in every phase of tropical forestry. If you have some project in progress, drop a note to the editor at the University of Miami. In our next issue we expect to print an extended report on what is being done along the line of historical research in this area.

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