Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

The Judges of the Supreme Court, 1789-1937, by Cortez A. M. Ewing. The University of Minnesota Press, 1938. \$2.00.

DR. EWING has developed a unique method of showing important historical changes by statistical graphs. He himself admits that the four historical periods and the four regions into which he subdivides American political history and geography are open to difference of opinion, but it would certainly be difficult for anyone to demonstrate that a better choice could be made for the purpose of the present study. The four periods chosen are: the pre-Jacksonian era, the pre-Civil War period, Reconstruction, and the years since the Spanish-American War. The four geographical regions are: the East, the South, the Middle West, and the West.

The seventy -six justices who have sat on the Supreme Court during these years are classified according to region in which they were born, region in which they were mainly active, period during which they served on the Court, age at time of appointment, educational qualifications,

record of previous public service, and similar classifications. Very illuminating charts and graphs make it possible to grasp very easily the trends in appointments to the Court. A noteworthy point is that the study is largely limited to the question of appointment to the bench, and offers little as to what the justices did while on the high court. In the matter of age, for instance, one can readily agree with Dr. Ewing in his hot contempt of such travesties as the book, The Nine Old Men, and with his assumption that there is no present evidence that old men tend to grow more conservative. Whether or not this is true is a matter for physiological inquiry, rather than for political theory, and complete open-mindedness would have been better than partisanship on this question.

This book is a mine of interesting and important data, carefully gathered from thousands of scattered references. It brings to acute focus the question as to whether the geographical regions have each had their fair share of representation on the court, with the conclusion that at the present time the Middle West and the South have more justifiable claim

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to such representation in appointments of the immediate future than the East or the West. It is to be hoped that this valuable book will have a wide influence in forming public opinion and administrative action in this important and muchneglected field of American politics.

—Howard O. Eaton.

McGillivray of the Creeks, by John Walton Caughey. University of Oklahoma Press, 1938. \$3.50.

One of the most interesting volumes in the Indian Series of the University of Oklahoma Press was released last month. It is John Walton Caughey's McGillivray of the Creeks. The author is assistant professor of history, University of California, Los Angeles. By reason of his regional training at the University of Texas and the University of California, his extensive research in the Archives of the Indies, Seville, and his usually high standard of scholarly work, he is well fitted to make this additional contribution.

Alexander McGillivray played a stellar role in Southern Indian relations during the stressful years immediately following

16 Jours State

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 37)

All-Time Record

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Belles Lettres

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36)

Revolution, when the the American United States and Spain were contesting for control of the Alabama-Mississippi country. The Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws occupied the buffer region, and the reader who follows the story of the new book must admire the heroic struggles of the Indians to pre-

serve their country.

In this crisis they found a red "Talleyrand" to take the helm, who could meet governors Miro and Carondelet, or agents from the American government, on equal terms. This Indian diplomat, Alexander McGillivray, was of Creek-Scotch-French ancestry and of Tory faith. He had little confidence in Spanish promises and no love for the American nation. But he succeeded in playing off one rival against the other to the advantage of the Creeks and their allies. It was not until shortly before his death in 1793 that he was induced to come to New York and conclude a treaty of peace with the United States wherein he was recompensed for his

McGillivray of the Creeks is divided into two parts. In the first part Professor Caughey allots fifty-seven pages to a brilliant account of the vicissitudes of the Creek Nation beset on every hand by enemies, the rise of McGillivray, and the part he played in Southern history during the little known period from 1784-1794. The second part consists of a chronological presentation of the McGillivray letters, edited and annotated. Ordinarily edited documents have little appeal for the general reader, but the McGillivray letters are different. Here the story of a heroic people, the cunning designs of Spanish diplomats, and the attempted frauds of English traders are presented with much the flavor of these early days. The reader will find himself attempting to appraise the character of the Creek leader. Was he a rogue or a patriot? Death claimed him before he could prove his worth in maintaining peace on the border.

The format of the book is up to the usually high standard of the University Press books. The jacket design and binding are in harmony with the general theme, and the paper and printing are of good quality. A chronological table of contents, a selected bibliography, and a comprehensive index add much to the book's usefulness. C. C. RISTER.

Mrs. Edna Muldrow, '18, '27ma, professor of English in Southwestern State Teachers College, Weatherford, has sold a one-act play, Dust, to Dodd-Mead and Company. It is to be published in Best One-Act Plays of 1938.

Mary McKinney Frye, '29, Wewoka, is author of a story, ABC's for the Cherokees, in a recent issue of Children's Activities, a nationally circulated juvenile magazine.



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