

Book Reviews

Dutch Systems in Family Naming. By ROSALIE FELLOWS BAILEY.
Washington, D.C. 1954. Pp. 21.

This is No. 12 of the Genealogical Publications of the National Genealogical Society, a reprint from the March and December, 1953, issues of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Miss Fellows traces the development of Dutch family names in New York and New Jersey from the point of view of the genealogist. While it is clear that Dutch names were quite complicated, Miss Fellows asserts the Dutch method of naming to be very systematic even though it did not follow the English system.

It is pointed out that, among the Dutch in America, the identification by the father's first name, the patronymic, was the predominant system. Next, quite a few had surnames from places; another large group derived their surnames from their occupations; a rather small group derived their family names from personal characteristics, or nicknames. After marriage women continued to use their maiden surnames.

The work continues with an explanation of Dutch forenames in America and then returns to the Dutch corruption of names foreign to the Dutch. All in all this is a most interesting and authoritative discussion of Dutch names in America.

ELSDON C. SMITH

Bulletin Analytique:—Philosophie. Edited by R. BAYER. (Paris, France: Centre de Documentation du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1954. Pp. 1374).

This imposing reference work is sponsored by the French Ministry of Education. Although it is announced as a "Revue Trimestrielle" this volume, No. VIII, was published in four installments, each with a detailed table of contents. As the sub-title "Philosophie" indicates this section of the *Bulletin* is devoted to the subjects which we usually designate as humanities and social sciences. The volume lists not less than 15,927 books, monographs and

articles. Each entry gives the author, the title (repeated in French in the case of non-French publications), the publisher or periodical, and a short convenient summary of the contents. Where it is necessary to indicate the country of origin the editors do not say *Etats Unis* and *Allemagne* but *U.S.A.* and *Deutschland*—a practice which is gaining ground in Europe and which might well be followed in the United States. The immensity of the undertaking can be judged by the fact that the contents of more than 1600 periodicals are indexed and abstracted.

The bibliography on name research is treated somewhat meagerly. It is a subdivision, *Onomastique*, of the heading *Lexique*, in the section *Études particulières*, in the general division of *Linguistique et Philologie*. In the four issues only eighty-five items are treated, mostly in the French language, and forty references are made to onomatological items in other sections. None of the periodicals devoted to name research, except the *Revue Internationale d'Onomastique*, are indexed. This seems to be a serious shortcoming which, let us hope, will be remedied in future volumes.

ERWIN G. GUDDE

American Nicknames, Their Origin and Significance. By George Earle Shankle. (New York: The H. W. Wilson Company. Second Edition, 1955. Pp. vii, 524. \$7.50)

Nicknames have not received much attention by scholars in this country, although the fact that surnames arose from nicknames exemplifies their importance. The psychological influence of nicknames and their effect on our school life, social life and political life should receive careful study.

Now, eighteen years after his work was first published, Dr. Shankle has brought out a second edition of his eminently usable and authoritative reference work, *American Surnames*. This is not, like so many second editions, just a reprint of the first. The work has been revised to include information about the nicknames of well-known persons that have arisen during the last twenty years, a period covering most of the New Deal and Fair Deal political era when many colorful personalities brought forth new nicknames. Space for the new material was obtained by eliminating reference

to nicknames of athletic teams of state teachers colleges and junior colleges as well as some self explanatory nicknames. The first edition ran to 599 pages while the second contains only 524 pages. Both editions had two columns to a page.

For each person, place or event listed the compiler has set out one or more nicknames together with some description of their origin. Care has been given to listing the sources from which the information was obtained, and these are set out after each entry. Much of the information has been gleaned from the biographical works, histories, newspapers, and magazines, as well as from personal interviews.

What might be learned from comparing the number of different nicknames applied to Franklin Delano Roosevelt with those given Theodore Roosevelt may provide some data for interpretation by future historians. (Three and one-half columns are devoted to Theodore Roosevelt while less than two describe Franklin Delano Roosevelt.) Perhaps Americans are now more courteous and respectful to those who govern.

The title of the work indicates that attention is given to the origin and significance of the nicknames. While it is true that the compiler has traced the origin of many nicknames, their significance has been almost totally neglected.

This is a valuable reference work which fills a need covered by no other book, and a second edition is very welcome.

ELSDON C. SMITH