

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

in San Francisco, quickly awakened him to the fact that his New England home was the place for him and he took advantage of the earliest opportunity to return to it.

The Taylor letters are among the best that have appeared in print. They were understandingly written and besides the vivid pictures he gives of the mines he pictures life in San Francisco graphically.

Dr John Caughey's editing and notations have made the letters into a worthwhile book for the student of California history — Ward Ritchie's designing and printing have made it a book to be desired by any booklover, and the size of the edition — but 250 copies — makes this handsome volume an item to be sought and guarded by the collector.

THE DICTIONARY OF CALIFORNIA LAND NAMES. Compiled by Phil Townsend Hanna. Revised and enlarged. The Automobile Club of Southern California Los Angeles, 1951. Pp. xxii, 392 Octavo \$5.

In 1946 Phil Townsend Hanna prepared, and the Automobile Club of Southern California published, his fine "DICTIONARY OF CALIFORNIA LAND NAMES." That edition has been exhausted for several years, and now the same compiler and publisher have brought out a new and greatly enlarged edition of the valuable book. New names have been added, an extended bibliography has been compiled, and some corrections have been made.

THE DICTIONARY OF CALIFORNIA LAND NAMES is invaluable to the man or woman who wants information quickly upon some town or locality within the state. Not too large, it can easily be slipped into a coat pocket or carried in one's traveling bag. It is of greatest aid in creating a keener interest in a vacation tour, or a business or pleasure trip up and down the state.

As an example of the manner in which the "Dictionary" has been brought up-to-date, the locality in Death Valley, named Desolation Canyon, hardly three years ago, on January 8th, 1949, at Furnace Creek Inn, at the meeting held to organize the now famous pageant that took place later that year, is given and fully described in this new edition of the **DICTIONARY OF CALIFORNIA LAND NAMES.**

Book Reviews

There are other additions as new in name, and many descriptions of place names have been expanded.

As a reference book the "Dictionary" is valuable and the compiler's reputation for accuracy gives it authenticity.

CALIFORNIA CALLED THEM. A Saga of Golden Days and Roaring Camps. By Robert O'Brien. Illustrated by Antonio Sotomayer. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. New York. Pp. xv, 251 8vo \$4.00.

Those who have read Robert O'Brien's **THIS IS SAN FRANCISCO** will want to read and own his latest book, **CALIFORNIA CALLED THEM**, a book of history and anecdotes of the Mother Lode, the Shasta country, and the cross roads of the Sierra — Truckee.

Many books have been written on the Mother Lode country, fewer on Truckee, and but a very few descriptions either in book or magazine form have been written of Shasta or Yreka. Robert O'Brien, however, has done full justice to all these interesting localities in his new book and tells more about Shasta City and the Mount Shasta country than many of us have ever known.

His chapters on Columbia, Angel's Camp and Murphy's give much new material. One never tires of reading about Columbia or Murphy's Camp, and written in O'Brien's easy style, the new material we have here enriches the literature of the Gold Rush and the country it affected.

McGraw-Hill have done a nice piece of bookmaking. The book will be a valuable addition to any library of Californiana.

OBSERVATION IN LOWER CALIFORNIA. By Johann Jakob Baegert, S. J. Translated from the original German, with an introduction and notes by M. M. Brandenburg and Carl L. Bauman. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1952. Pp. xx, 218, Index, Maps and Ills. 8vo. \$5.00.

When their missionary field was given to the Franciscans and Dominicans, the fifteen Jesuit missionaries, who had worked there, were expelled from Lower California, so often referred to as the "Mother of California." Among them was Father Johann Jakob Baegert. He returned to his native Germany, and at Mannheim, in 1771, published his "**OBSERVATIONS IN LOWER CALIFORNIA.**" This