

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

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was followed by a second edition in the following year and a third in 1773, all three in German text.

Until this year no complete translation in English has been published, altho Charles Rau made an English translation of portions of the work which were published in the annual reports of the Smithsonian Institute of 1863 and 1864. A complete Spanish translation was published in Mexico in 1942, and now the University of California Press has published a beautifully illustrated edition in English, from translations made by M. M. Brandenburg and Carl L. Bauman. The book is fully annotated and is a valuable contribution to the history of Lower California for the student, and is interesting reading for anyone who reads English.

Bitter at heart, Baegert wrote scathingly of the treatment meted out to the Jesuits and revealed shocking conditions existing among the natives of Lower California, whom he considered but one step above the wild beasts that surrounded them. His description of the country, its geography, botany and zoology is well done, but colored by his extreme distaste for Lower California and the hardships endured there by himself and his fellow missionaries.

Baegert covers the history of the peninsula from the first coming of the Spaniards to its shores, to the time of his expulsion. He added two appendices in which he explodes "false" reports about both the natives and his missionary brothers, expressing himself in no uncertain terms.

As a fine work, aside from its historical value, the book is a beautiful piece of the book makers art and the University of California Press can well be proud of this well printed and bound volume, a collectors' item in every sense of the word.

THE LARKIN PAPERS. Personal, Business, and Official Correspondence of Thomas Oliver Larkin, Merchant and United States Consul in California. Edited by George P. Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library. Volume I 1822-1842 University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1951 Pp. xxi, 352, Color Frontispiece Portrait, Quarto \$10.00.

The most important contribution to the printed history of California in recent years is **THE LARKIN PAPERS** published by the Uni-