

BOOK REVIEWS

Native Houses of Western North America. By T. T. WATERMAN and Collaborators. (New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. 1921. Pp. 97.)

Indian Houses of Puget Sound. By T. T. WATERMAN and RUTH GREINER. (New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, 1921. Pp. 61.)

In two small volumes published by the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, Dr. Waterman and his collaborators have rendered the valuable service of bringing together and systematizing our knowledge of native houses. In the first paper, "Native Houses of Western North America", the author advances the theory that the pit dwellings of the western part of the continent may have some connection with the underground houses of eastern Asia. From this point on, the paper really becomes a discussion of the varieties of pit dwellings rather than a comprehensive study of American houses. As long as the author deals with the northern part of this region he is very much at home and the point he makes regarding the outgrowth of the rectangular plank house from the conical pit dwelling is very good. He attributes this change in structure to the differences in the material employed; on the North Pacific Coast where woodwork is the predominant industry, wooden planks were used instead of the earth, brush, and logs of other regions. At the end of the paper there is a tabulation of the types of houses found in each of the areas previously described, but here there are some grave omissions. The Southwest materials are very meager, considering the data at hand. If the lists are to be at all complete, there should be more mention of the pueblo, and the cliff dwelling and slab house of this area should certainly be considered.

The second paper is a step toward filling a great gap in our knowledge of western North America. Travel accounts of early explorers and similar literature have been our only sources of information so a paper on "Indian Houses of Puget Sound" is doubly welcome because it makes such data more accessible and adds the results of the authors' own investigations. Here the authors describe the three most important types of houses, the gabled house, the shed house and the gambrel or lean-to form. A large amount of space is given to listing the Indian terms for the houses and their

various parts. This information would be very useful to the ethnologist if the language of the speakers were mentioned. Although we know that most of these Indians belong to the Salish linguistic stock it would be helpful to know to which dialect of this widely distributed family these terms belong. What also seems to be lacking in this discussion are comparative notes, both regarding the construction and the preparation of the materials used. There is excellent material of this kind to be had for the district of the North where Professor Boas has made thorough investigation. It would be interesting to know whether the Puget Sound Indians prepared their wooden planks in a way similar to that employed further north and whether there is any of the famous North Pacific Coast wood sewing.

This kind of data is of value not only to the ethnologist, but also to the historian and student of culture. One paper brings up again the discussion of the connection between America and Asia which is of interest to every thorough student of native American culture. Furthermore each paper of this character brings out the very important point that the native culture of America is not as simple as our American historians were wont to believe, but offers intricate problems of diffusion and differentiation which must some day be solved.

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Pacific Northwest Americana; A Checklist of Books and Pamphlets Relating to the History of the Pacific Northwest.
Compiled by CHARLES W. SMITH. (New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1921. Pp. 329. \$4.00.)

The Pacific Northwest, including in that designation the Old Oregon Country, Alaska and the Yukon, has a remarkably interesting history and a growing literature of its own based thereon. The importance of that fact came early to the notice of those conscientious servants of the people, the librarians in charge of the reference work in the public libraries of the leading educational and commercial centers of this rather extensive region; and the publication of this volume is one direct result of their united interest. The idea was formally endorsed by the Pacific Northwest Library Association, and the work of compiling and editing has been carefully and generously done by one of its members from the data sent to him for that purpose. The contents of the book is based upon the shelf lists (upon this subject) of more than a dozen