R. C. N. GOULD, author of "Travels in Oklahoma," is exceptionally well equipped to write a book of this kind. His long residence in Oklahoma; his extended travels and studies in various parts of the state in connection with investigation conducted by the United States Geological Survey, the Oklahoma Geological Survey, and by various oil companies; his free access to and familiarity with the files of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, and above all his fatherly interest in Oklahoma have peculiarly qualified him for this task.

Moreover, in addition to this unique preparation, the author has, in the Oklahoma landscape, a new and interesting subject with almost unlimited possibilities for graphic description and clear exposition. The rich variety of this landscape has given pleasure to many travelers since Washington Irving made his "Tour of the Prairies." Doctor Gould has witnessed, from a point of vantage, the almost magic transformation of this landscape from that of a simple pioneer community to one of a thriving industrial state. He has witnessed the development of a network of railroads and improved highways, the rise of a forest of oil derricks and tank farms, and the growth of urban establishments with their mounting skylines and spreading suburbs encroaching upon fields of cotton and wheat. "Oklahoma," Doctor Gould states, "has achieved more in twenty years than most states have achieved in a century." One is, therefore, not surprised to find that "Travels in Oklahoma" is a book not only unique in organization but also superior in quality and more interesting than most elementary state geographies.

The first five chapters consist of an imaginary journey on foot, by auto and by train as well as by boat on Red River. This imaginary 1,400 mile journey around and across the state is an unique and valuable feature of the book. With Doctor Gould as guide and interpreter the reader visualizes and understands many things which would remain unnoticed if he were to actually take the journey alone or with a less qualified guide. This portion of the book should appeal to Old Plainsmen and the Sooners who wish again to visit the scenes of their struggle with primordial nature, and the New Comers who desire to secure some slight acquaintance with the country of their adoption, and even to school boys and girls who are required to learn something of their home state.

The remaining section of the book deals with physiographic regions, streams, soils, trees, grasses, native animals, crops, minerals, people, roads and cities, and are largely revisions of chapters in the author's "Geography of Oklahoma" written in 1909. The chapters on climate, history, education and government, however, are omit-
ed from the revised copy. The effect of these omissions, except for the chapter on climate which will be missed by geography teachers, does not materially reduce the geographic value of the book. Moreover in the revised copy, particularly in the chapters dealing with streams, physiography and minerals, the descriptions are more regional and synthetic and hence in closer conformity with modern standards of geographic description than the original. For instance instead of a detailed description of specific rivers as in the edition of 1909, we find the well known differences between the humid eastern and subhumid western streams set forth as follows:

"So marked is the difference that we might well imagine that the streams belonged to different countries instead of different parts of the same state. The rivers of Western Oklahoma are similar to other streams of the plains any where between the Rio Grande and the Saskatchewan. They all run east or south east in broad and shallow valleys which they have cut out of the flat sloping plain across which they flow. We notice that the valley is often less than 100 feet below the general level of the plain and is frequently from two to five miles wide. If we dig a well in this valley we find it is filled to a depth of from 25 to 200 feet with course sand and gravel and clay. In this sand filled valley the stream runs in a meandering channel, passing back and forth from one side of the valley to another. During some previous time in the history of the world, the stream has cut its valley deeper than its present level in bed rock which makes up the plains and since then has been filling its valley with sand and gravel. One thing that strikes us forcibly is that these rivers have no banks worthy of the name, there being usually only low sand banks a few feet high often scarcely sufficient to confine the stream even during periods of low water. During the many months of the year such streams of the plains as the South Canadian and Cimarron may be a quarter of a mile wide and average not more than a foot in depth. At other times they may be entirely dry, and the channel of the river will show only a bed of dry sand, which glints white in the sun and is blown by the wind. Suddenly, however, and without warning, with no rain in sight, foam crested water, several feet high will rush down the stream, filling the channel bank full and over flowing the bottomlands. These sudden floods are caused by heavy rainfall near the head of the stream. The high water may continue sometimes for a week. Bridges are often washed out or the stream may cut out an entirely new channel leaving the bridges high and dry. Crops on the bottom lands may be destroyed. The channels of many of these streams are changing from year to year causing much damage to farms."

Naturally the book is not without defects. There is no general index, and maps are conspicuously lacking. The text cannot be intelligently read unless the reader provides himself with a good reference map of the state. It is too much to assume that readers will always have one at hand. Several dot maps showing the distribution of important crops are introduced but their utility is somewhat reduced because of the fact that the are undated and are not referred to in the text. Fortunately the unusually large number of well chosen photographs compensate in a measure for the deficiency of maps. The importance of rainfall in determining the characteristics of soils in different parts of the state is not adequately emphasized. It is a mistake to ascribe the loessal origin of black upland prairie soils of western Oklahoma as the determining factor in the soil properties. These soils belong to the ektodynamorphic group and are closely related to the Tchernosems. One also wonders if Doctor Gould is not "carrying coals to Newcastle" when he explains to American readers that a binder "cuts the grain, ties it in bundles, or sheaves and dumps the bundles on the ground," or that "sweet corn is eaten as roasting ears, etc." However, these are minor features and do not characterize the book as a whole.

In conclusion we may say that "Travels in Oklahoma" provides an authoritative elementary text book on many aspects of the geography of Oklahoma, the need of which has long been felt.—C. J. Bollinger.

Little drops of water
Little grains of sand
Mixed with our cement
Makes the owner happy

This doesn't quite rhyme—
for it's more truth than poetry.

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