

Industrial Studies Undertaken at Smith College

FROM Smith College word comes, to the Business Historical Society, of a new series of studies to be made in the field of business and economic history. Concerning this project the director, Dr. Esther Lowenthal, professor of economics at Smith College, notes in *The Smith Alumnae* for November, 1932:

In the spring of 1932 the College received a gift which makes it possible to undertake a series of industrial studies of our part of the Connecticut Valley. The Department of Economics has for some time past been longing for the opportunity to record and study the economic history which is being made and being lost in its neighborhood. Now through the generosity of an anonymous donor we have been enabled by the appointment of an assistant director, a fellow, and a scholar to make a modest beginning in this important work. . . .

The assistant-director, Miss Katharine Lumpkin, Ph.D. of the University of Wisconsin, has undertaken the task of "contacts" — that is, of interesting business leaders in our enterprise. She has already made some headway and hopes eventually to make a survey and record of all the materials for business history here available. The fellow and the scholar, and a succession of them, will, we hope, work over the records and prepare a series of monographs.

It is evident that New England is facing a special crisis within the national one. One of the questions which any observer must ask is why mills go south, or, in some cases, west. To get an answer more exact than the "wages and taxes" of general conversation is part of our aim. A further question, to mention merely one more of the many which present themselves, is what happens to the towns when the mills close down. To seize the facts while they are fresh will do much to make the course of industrial development clear. . . .

In Memoriam

THE Society deeply regrets the loss of one of its members, Herbert N. Straus, who died at his home in New York on April fifth. He was the youngest of the three famous Straus brothers. He was vice-president of R. H. Macy and Company of New York and president of the Bamberger store of Newark. Mr. Straus was a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1903. During the war, he became a member of the Hoover food administration in Washington, and later, served