Excerpts from reviews on the volume Galitzi, Christine Avghi. A Study of Assimilation

"From the technological point of view there are many advantages in selecting one of the smaller immigrant groups for scientific study. The problem is more comprehensible, the materials are more compact, and the governing forces are likely to stand out more clearly than in the case of a large group like the Italians or the Germans. Miss Galitzi's excellent study of the Roumanians illustrates this principle admirably" (pp. 218-219).

Henry Pratt Fairchild

"This careful study is a contribution to our slight knowledge about the Roumanians in the United States. The author was born in Roumania and is familiar with both the language and the various cultural backgrounds of Roumanian immigrants. She also shows herself proficient in writing the English language.

Roumanian Jews were excluded from the study because of the author's unfamiliarity with Jewish traditions; consequently, the chief groups studied are three: the Roumanians from the Old Kingdom; the Transylvanians from pre-war Austria-Hungary, who make up the large majority; and the Roumanian Macedonians. Her general point of view is that of the cultural approach, the adjustment of the transported Roumanian peasant culture to that of industrial America constituting the chief problem.

Assimilation is conceived of in its broadest sense to include the three stages of economic adjustment, cultural identification, and ethnic amalgamation. To complete this process requires at least three generations. As a whole, the Roumanians have been in this country only long enough to get well into the second stage of cultural assimilation. While the author holds to a theory of Americanization wherein "each ethnic group contributes its genius to the development of American culture, by adding its cultural heritage to the Anglo-Saxon foundation upon which the latter is built" (p. 169) the facts she presents and her own discussion of them seem to show that the give and take is very unequal. In reality, assimilation seems to mean a more or less rapid substitution of the new culture for the old rather than a mutual modification" (p.155).

Chapter x discusses the first and second generations, and includes a summary of twenty cases taken from a survey of a hundred Roumanian families in Chicago. They give us a picture of the variety of adjustments made within one small group, as well as
indicate the variety of factors involved. One wishes, however, that somewhat more material of an autobiographical nature had been included. This volume, with its judicious interpretations and conclusions, seems to show that the Roumanians are not the hopeless candidates for Americanization that Nordic propagandists have implied in their derogatory statements about "Southeastern Europeans" (pp.155-156).