Elsewhere in this issue appears the first installment of what is planned to be a regular feature of the Victorian News Letter: a selected list of recent significant publications in our field. The last six months have been unusually productive of Victorian studies, not only quantitatively but, what is more important, qualitatively—and, what may in the long run be even more important, a number of the articles in Victorian scholarship and criticism. The recent spate cannot matter itself upon processing either prudence or dexterity of events, but a number of the items listed by Professor Goodwin may illustrate points made in the editorial which preceded this April issue.

Lionel Stevenson's paper on "The Proverbs of Victorian Poets" (University of Toronto Quarterly, April) recently supplements the content made to these pages of the last year. The question is how we convey our thoughts to the literary qualities of the major Victorian poets. "By half a century," Stevenson says, "the critics have insisted on considering them only as psychologists or metaphysicians and then condemning them for alleged inadequacy in that role. Let us begin to do them justice by regarding them as artists.

Edited for the English X group of the Modern Language Association by Richard D. Altick, Department of English, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio, to whom all communications relating to the content of the paper should be sent. Correspondence regarding circulation should be addressed to Francis G. Townsend, 204-A Lincoln Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, who is in charge of production and mailing.
EDITORIAL

Elsewhere in this issue appears the first installment of what is planned to be a regular feature of the Victorian News Letter: a selected list of recent significant publications in our field. The last six months have been unusually productive of Victorian studies, not only quantitatively but, what is more important, qualitatively—and, what may in the long run be even more important, a number of the articles and books listed seem to represent new tendencies in Victorian scholarship and criticism. The News Letter cannot flatter itself upon possessing either prescience or influence upon the course of events, but a number of the items listed by Professor Townsend strikingly illustrate points made in the editorial which prefaced the April number.

Lionel Stevenson's paper on "The Pertinacious Victorian Poets" (University of Toronto Quarterly, April) admirably supports the comment made in these pages that it is high time people turned their attention to the literary qualities of the major Victorian poets. "For half a century," Stevenson says, "the critics have insisted on considering them only as sociologists or metaphysicians and then condemning them for alleged inadequacy in that role. Let us begin to do them justice by regarding them as artists." By first reviewing several recent works on Tennyson which consider the poet as artist, and then contributing some observations of his own on Tennyson (The Princess) and Browning ("The Laboratory," "My Last Duchess," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at St. Praxed's," and "Childe Roland") he shows how exciting and profitable such an approach can be.

At the same time, the News Letter urged further study of the intellectual background of the age; and within a month or two appeared Walter E. Houghton's article on "Victorian Anti-Intellectualism" (JHI, June), which analyzes, with a wealth of illustrative material, the Victorians' distrust of abstract reason and their embracing of intuition on the one hand and utilitarian values on the other.
This provocative paper is sure to make Victorian students impatient for Professor Houghton's projected book on the Victorian intellectual climate.

As if in answer to the News Letter's call for "more intensive examination of the social background of the age," Rinehart has published John W. Dodds's The Age of Paradox, a lively semi-journalistic study, enriched by almost two hundred contemporary illustrations, of the social scene in England, 1841-1851. While it does not purport to interpret the spirit of the forties in serious historical terms, the book provides a vivid and crowded panorama which touches on almost every aspect of life in the period.

Nor has biography been neglected. There are new lives of Mrs. Browning, the Carlyles, Wilkie Collins, and George Eliot. And if it is permissible to anticipate an event which was originally scheduled for the end of October, but which has been postponed to January by the happy intervention of the Book-of-the-Month Club, a preliminary salute may be offered to Edgar Johnson's two-volume life of Dickens, the publication of which will surely be one of the most important events in recent Victorian scholarship. One who has been privileged to read the book in proof can report that it is a genuinely great biography. Dickens and Edgar Johnson are going to be popular topics of literary conversation in the first months of the new year.

All in all, these are prosperous times for Victorian scholars. Our field has taken long to come into its own, but the event has been well worth waiting for.

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ENGLISH X NEWS

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Group Meeting

From the chairman of the program committee, Francis E. Mineka (Cornell), comes the list of papers to be read at the Boston meeting of English X (2 p.m. on Monday, December 29):

   Frederick E. Faverty (Northwestern)

   Fraser Neiman (William and Mary)
3. "What Should Last in Arnold."
   Howard F. Lowry (Wooster)

   Arthur K. Davis, Jr. (Virginia)

In the absence of Karl Litzenberg, the acting secretary of the group will be Hill Shine (Kentucky).

Luncheon

The luncheon of the English X group will be held at 12:45 p.m., Sunday, December 28, in the Hampshire House, which is but a short walk from the Statler. The price of the meal, whose entree will be breast of chicken, will be $3.00, including tip. All who wish to attend are asked to send their reservation, accompanied by check, to Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., R-21 Lowell House, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, before December 20.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

This list, compiled by Francis G. Townsend (Illinois), covers the period from April to mid-October, 1952. It is frankly and determinedly selective; in no sense does it aspire to the coverage of the annual MP bibliography. Rather, it is designed simply to help readers of the News Letter keep abreast of the most significant books and articles--those which all conscientious Victorian scholars, regardless of their special interests, should know about. Specialized or minor articles, including the brief notes printed in N&Q and MLN, are excluded, as are all but a few of the books and articles dealing with peripheral subjects. Reference is made to important reviews in the TLS.

Obviously, items of importance and general interest will sometimes be overlooked. Readers will confer a favor upon their fellow-scholars if they will write to the compiler, pointing out such items for mention in the next issue. The compiler will also welcome suggestions for increasing the usefulness of this list within the limitations imposed by space.

The abbreviations used are those found in the PMLA American Bibliography. Because of space limitations, late Victorians who might equally well be regarded
as early twentieth-century figures—Conrad, Housman, and Yeats, for example—are (without prejudice!) omitted.

GENERAL

Art

Geoffrey Bemrose, Nineteenth Century English Pottery and Porcelain. Rev TLS (August 15), p. 530. As the reviewer notes, we are just beginning to get adequate scholarly studies of the arts in the Victorian era.


Frank Weitenkampf, "The Keepsake in Nineteenth-Century Art." Boston Public Library Quarterly (July), pp. 139-148. The illustrations in the keepsake ranged from excellent to poor. Writers ridiculed these books, but the lists of contributors are impressive.

Iolo A. Williams, Early English Watercolours. And Some Cognate Drawings by Artists born not later than 1755. Rev TLS (August 8), pp. 509-510, in the front-page article, "Happy Medium." The article discusses the present state of our knowledge in this field, with considerable reference to the nineteenth century.

Bibliography


Criticism


J. D. Jump, "Weekly Reviewing in the Eighteen-Sixties." RES (July), pp. 244-262. The reviewers adjudged Tennyson and Dickens the best in their fields, with Browning and Eliot runners-up. The reviewers were tired of Carlyle, appreciative of Ruskin's art-criticism but not of his social sermons, suspicious of Newman, and more and more impressed by Arnold.

History


Philosophy and Theology

Herman Ausubel, "William Cobbett and Malthusianism." JHI (April), pp. 250-256. It seems a shame to classify the most diverting article of the year under Philosophy.

Walter E. Houghton, "Victorian Anti-Intellectualism." JHI (June), pp. 291-313. Attributes Victorian anti-intellectualism to admiration for rule of thumb technology, and to fear of scepticism.
Politics and Economics


Social Background


AUTHORS

Arnold

Lilian Herlands Hornstein, "'Rugby Chapel' and Exodus." MLR (April), pp. 208-209. The portrait of Thomas Arnold as a leader may have been suggested by Moses in Exodus.

W. Stacy Johnson, "Matthew Arnold's Sea of Life." Pq (April), pp. 195-207. Arnold alternates between three views of man and nature, the Christian, the materialistic, and the pantheistic (of the Emersonian variety). This wavering is reflected in his imagery of the sea, the stream, and the islands.

Gaylord C. Le Roy, "Ambivalence in Matthew Arnold's Prose Criticism." College English (May), pp. 432-438. Arnold sympathizes with the advance of democracy, but he abhors its anarchy, its vulgarity.

Howard Foster Lowry, Karl Young, and Waldo Hilary Dunn, edd., The Note-Books of Matthew Arnold. Rev TLS (May 9), p. 312.

Borrow


Brontë, Emily

William E. Buckler, "Chapter VII of 'Wuthering Heights': a Key to Interpretation." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (June), pp. 51-55. Chapter VII contains "significant signposts" to the development of the novel.

Brown, T. E.


Poems of T. E. Brown. 2 vols. With an Introductory Memoir by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. Rev TLS (June 6), pp. 369-370, in the front-page article. The Manxman is a good example of the brilliant but eccentric teacher who helped to establish the reputation of the new schools set up for the middle classes.
See under Tennyson, article by Lionel Stevenson.

Beatrice Corrigan, "New Documents on Browning's Roman Murder Case." SP (July), pp. 529-533. Discusses the "Cortona codex," which contains much information about the Comparini and Franceschini properties, and the financial arrangements which preceded the wedding.

William Coyle, "Molinos: 'The Subject of the Day' in The Ring and the Book." PMLA (June), pp. 308-314. Browning's references to Molinos and Quietism are not anachronistic, and are subtly consistent. His characters use the term "Molinism" as a smear word for anything they do not like.

Louise Greer, Browning and America. A comprehensive study of Browning's American reputation, the sale of American editions of his works, his contacts with American friends, and the progress of Yankee Browning Societies.

Dorothy Hewlett, Elizabeth Barrett Browning.


Carlyle

See under Dickens, article by Arthur Adrian.

Lawrence and Elisabeth Hanson, Necessary Evil: The Life of Jane Welsh Carlyle.

Joseph Slater, "George Ripley and Thomas Carlyle." PMLA (June), pp. 341-349. In his youth, George Ripley idolized Carlyle, but in his maturity, he recognized the prophet's limitations. This article contains two ludicrous but fascinating letters from the devotee to the seer.

Julian Symons, Thomas Carlyle.

Collins, Wilkie


Dickens

Arthur A. Adrian, "Dickens on American Slavery: A Carlylean Slant." PMLA (June), pp. 315-329. As Dickens grew older, his attitude toward Negroes was more and more shaped by Carlyle.


Edgar Johnson, "'Bleak House': the Anatomy of Society." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (September), pp. 73-89. In Bleak House Dickens abandoned his piece-meal assaults on separate social evils, and began repudiating acquisitive society as a whole.

Disraeli

See under Dickens, article by Zoltán Haraszi.

Eliot


Hardy

Thomas Hardy, Our Exploits at West Polye. With an Introduction by Richard L. Purdy. Rev TLS (September 5), p. 582. Professor Purdy has recovered a forgotten novel, a boys' book which Hardy wrote for the Youth's Companion. There are some typical Hardy touches, but the novel is most interesting because in it Hardy adjusts his narrative technique to a juvenile audience.

G. W. Sherman, "Thomas Hardy and the Agricultural Laborer." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (September), pp. 110-118. Hardy's essay, "The Dorsetshire Labourer," is valuable background material for the understanding of the Wessex novels.


Howell, C. A.

Oswald Doughty, "C. A. Howell." TLS (August 8), p. 517. Professor Doughty wants to know if anyone has ever seen an edition of the letters of this confidant of both Ruskin and Rossetti.

Howitt

Carl R. Woodring, Victorian Samplers: William and Mary Howitt.

Lear


Meredith

William E. Buckler, "The Artistic Unity of 'Richard Feverel': Chapter XXXIII." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (September), pp. 119-123. Critics who have complained that the tragic ending has been tacked on to a comic story have failed to observe that Chapter XXXIII is a direct outgrowth of Chapter I, and points directly to the tragic ending.
Charles J. Hill, "George Meredith's 'Plain Story'." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (September), pp. 90-102. Originally planned as a short pastoral novel, Rhoda Fleming developed into a complex work. Consequently its unity is somewhat marred.

Newman


Rossetti, D. G.


Ruskin

John Tyree Fain, "Ruskin and Hobson." PMLA (June), pp. 297-307. Hobson's commentary on Ruskin's economics is still indispensable, but it is not free from error.


Stevenson, Robert Louis

The Princeton University Library Chronicle (Spring), pp. 167-168, reports a donation of eleven letters, and a few leaves from Stevenson's MSS.

Swinburne

Algernon Charles Swinburne, Lesbia Brandon. An Historical and Critical Commentary being largely a Study (and Elevation) of Swinburne as a Novelist by Randolph Hughes. Rev TLS (July 4), p. 434. See also Mr. Hughes's letter, "Lesbia Brandon." TLS (July 11), p. 453. (The first complete edition of Swinburne's excursion into fiction. See also Alfred Noyes, "Lesbia Brandon." TLS (October 10), p. 661. Mr. Noyes charges that the novel is in part a forgery.

Tennyson

See under Dickens, article by Zoltan Haraszt.

Frederick L. Gwynn, "Tennyson's 'Tithon,' 'Tears, Idle Tears,' and 'Tithonus.'" PMLA (June), pp. 572-575. The unpublished poem, "Tithon," indicates that the two familiar poems are more closely related than they appear to be.

G. Robert Stange, "Tennyson's Garden of Art: a Study of The Hesperides." PMLA (September), pp. 732-743. This poem, usually regarded as merely a musical exercise, is a complex symbolic expression of the spiritual conditions which make for poetic creation.


Thackeray

See under Dickens, article by Zoltan Haraszt.

John E. Tilford, Jr., "The Love Themes of Henry Esmond." *PMLA* (September), pp. 684-701. Readers have not always noted the great care with which Thackeray prepared for the ending of this strange romance. He wanted the ending to appear inevitable and it is inevitable. The only valid criticism of it is that it is hastily handled when it finally arrives, perhaps because of Thackeray's exhaustion and the publisher's deadline.

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THE NEWS LETTER IN LIBRARIES

Several readers of the *News Letter* have written to the editor suggesting that it be sent regularly to their college or university library. It is a little disquieting to think that this modest paper may eventually achieve the dignity of an entry in the Union List of Serials, but subscribers are welcome to add their local libraries to the mailing list by sending a card to the circulation manager pro tem, whose name and address may be found on the cover.

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NEWS OF VICTORIAN SCHOLARS

Omitted from the list of Ford Foundation Fellows given in the last number were the names of at least two workers in our field: William P. Albrecht (University of New Mexico) and Alice R. Bensen (Michigan State Normal College).

Karl Litzenberg (Michigan) is now Fulbright Research Professor at the University of Copenhagen. During his stay in Denmark he is continuing his study of the impact and research of the major Victorians in Scandinavia. His address for the academic year is: c/o United States Educational Foundation in Denmark, Frederiksgade 17, Copenhagen K, Denmark.

John Butt (King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne) is teaching at UCLA during the present semester.

Basil Willey (Cambridge) will be visiting professor at Cornell during the spring term, offering a course in Victorian literature and a seminar in Wordsworth. He will be available for a number of lecture engagements. Those interested in communicating with him about possible lectures may write him at Pembroke College, Cambridge, England, until January 15, and after February 1 at Goldwin Smith Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Professor Willey, incidentally, is completing the second volume of his *Nineteenth Century Studies*. 
LIBRARY NOTE

There are probably many Victorians who, while they have often heard of it, have never realized that the Newberry Library in Chicago has extraordinarily good facilities for research in certain aspects of the period. There is, for one thing, a large collection of Victorian memoirs. The holdings in general English history of the period are strong, and in addition the library makes a specialty of collecting source material on the radical political movements of the age, as well as of works on the economic and social background; there is a special file, arranged year by year, of contemporary pamphlets bearing on the subject. The Wing Collection is rich in material on the nineteenth-century printing arts. Finally, the Newberry boasts one of the largest collections in the country of nineteenth-century English periodicals, including many items unique at least in America and many more which can be found in only a handful of other libraries. An informal description of the periodical holdings in our field was printed in the library's Bulletin for May of this year.

BOOKS THAT NEED REISSUING

J. O. Bailey (North Carolina) writes: "Let me mention to you the need for re-printing a number of important Victorian books that are now out of print and are practically unobtainable. I think of Meredith's essay on The Idea of Comedy. When I tried to buy a copy and found none easily to be had, I thought I might use a library copy, now falling to pieces, to prepare an edition. Before going to work, I thought of talking with publishers. I approached three, who said No, it wouldn't sell, and I gave up the idea."

This raises an interesting point. How many more books are there in our field which need reprinting—-but which remain out of print, either because reissuing them hasn't occurred to any publisher, or because a sufficient number of Victorian students haven't made their needs felt? Recently several prime items relating to
Victorian social history have been reprinted, among them Peter Quennell's abridge-
ment of Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor* and that minor classic of
Victorian memoirs, the *Autobiography of Alexander Somerville*. Why not similar
books more directly connected with literary studies?

One thinks, for instance, of Frederic Boase's *Modern English Biography*, "con-
taining many thousand concise memoirs of persons who have died since the year
1850," printed in an edition of 250 copies at Truro, 1892-1921. This six-volume
compilation is of immense help when the fortunes of research require one to find
out about Victorians of non-DNB stature, but it is found in few libraries. Would
there be sufficient demand for this work, especially among libraries, to warrant
its being photographically reproduced by one of the firms that specialize in such
jobs? The News Letter is advised by a professional librarian that the firm of
Peter Smith, for example, probably would do the job if fifteen or twenty libraries
expressed their interest. If readers will suggest items of this sort which need
to be made available again in some form, the next issue will pursue the subject.
Perhaps it may be possible to start a little project among libraries and reprint
specialists.

Incidentally, even such recent and indispensable items as DeVane's *Browning
Handbook* sometimes become virtually unobtainable. The *Handbook* is not only out of
print; it is seldom found in the second-hand book market. When copies vanish from
the university library and cannot be replaced, graduate students and all others
who happen not to own the book are at a disadvantage, to say the least. In the
case of books of this sort, whose fate remains in the hands of the copyright owner,
it would not hurt to broach the subject with the appropriate publisher's
representative the next time he calls on you. Sometimes a word of urging, relayed
to the home office, can start an interesting chain of events. The News Letter
stands ready to do whatever it can to encourage the reissue of needed books.
"THE NINETEENTH CENTURY": 1877-1952

From William D. Templeman (Southern California) comes information about a recent publication which Victorian students will not want to miss:

"The first number of The Nineteenth Century appeared in March, 1877. Later called The Nineteenth Century and After, it now bears the title The Twentieth Century. In February of this year, Penguin Books published an anthology of extracts from the first fifty volumes of the magazine; the book has the title Nineteenth Century Opinion, and is divided into several sections. This book is the basis for the March issue—the 75th anniversary number—of The Twentieth Century. Each section of the book has been dealt with in an article by an authority in the pertinent field. The introduction is written by Professor Basil Willey, and is a comprehensive survey of all the sections of the book. The theme of the whole special issue is a re-examination of the spiritual, intellectual, and social legacy remaining to us from the nineteenth century. It is meant 'to stir the mind... yet again to the realization of the longevity of certain human problems...Squalor, injustice, the place of women, authority, and liberty—these are our problems as much as they were theirs.' Ten pages at the end of the issue give running appreciative comments on 'Nineteenth Century Books of the Year'—that is, books published during 1951-52. The entire issue is fascinating, stimulating, and rewarding to students of the Victorian era."

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

In the last issue, the promise was made that these pages would be open to all those wishing to register new research projects, in advance of listing in the next annual PMLA "Research in Progress," or to describe significant research well underway. For some reason, only one or two readers took the trouble to report such projects. Because of this lack of response, the proposed "Research in Progress" list will be omitted from this number, but the invitation stands. If a sufficient
The number of projects are reported before the end of March, the next issue of the News Letter will list them.

Meanwhile, in response to a direct invitation, Oscar E. Maurer, Jr. (Texas) has sent in a résumé of his present research. In it may be found the answer to a question raised in the last issue of the News Letter: "Where is the Frank Luther Mott who will give us a history of nineteenth-century English magazines?"

For some years I have been collecting material for a book on Victorian periodicals which will be useful, I hope, to students of Victorian literary and cultural history. I propose to give comprehensive and detailed information—arranged alphabetically by titles—on all the important quarterly, monthly, and weeklies (and a few selected dailies) that flourished between 1830 and 1900. This information, as all students of the period know, is now for the most part widely scattered. I intend to bring it together in a form at once more detailed than was possible for Walter Graham in English Literary Periodicals, and more comprehensive than the valuable special studies of Bevington, Everett, Marchand, Mineka, and others.

What does the student of Victorian literature and ideas want to know about the periodicals he encounters? The information he needs will be presented according to the following plan, for each periodical:
(1) chronology; (2) editors, publishers, chief contributors (with relevant biographical details); (3) affiliations and attitudes (political, partisan, religious, doctrinaire, etc.); (4) significance as medium for publication (reviews, essays on topics of current importance, belles lettres, fiction, verse, etc.); (5) circulation, influence, prestige; (6) bibliography. Since this project was first announced in the Periodical Post Boy three years ago, I have received valuable suggestions as to content and arrangement, and I welcome further suggestions to help make the book as useful as possible.

I have also been working on a series of articles on subjects relating to Victorian periodicals; originally planned as supplementary chapters to the book mentioned above, these will eventually, I hope, form a separate volume. Two of them, "Anonymity vs. Signature in Victorian Reviewing" and "Froude and Fraser's Magazine, 1860-1874," have have already been published in the University of Texas Studies in English; a third, "Leslie Stephen and the Cornhill Magazine, 1871-1882," will be published shortly.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, AND ADVERTISEMENT

The appearance of a news letter that is free for the asking has caused surprise among readers and, what is more, consternation among the editors of other such sheets. "Apparently you have an angel to subsidize you," writes more than one correspondent. Nothing of the sort. The editor receives secretarial assistance from the Department
of English, Ohio State University; the mimeographing and mailing are the contribution of the University of Illinois. Other news letters, not so fortunately situated, lead a precarious financial existence. That is why the only worry-free news letter in the MLA is glad to help publicize a package offer by which the Explicator, the Seventeenth-Century News, the Shakespeare Newsletter, and the Johnsonian Newsletter are trying to increase their subscription lists. For details, see the June issue of PMLA, p. xiii.