

November, 1952

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 in this issue have done much to advance the cause of Victorian scholarship and criticism. The News Letter cannot clutter itself upon possessing either presence or importance in the source of events, but a number of the items listed by Professor Stevenson in the editorial which prefaced the April number.

THE VICTORIAN NEWS LETTER

NUMBER TWO

November, 1952

Lionel Stevenson's paper on "The Post-Victorian Victorian Poets" (University of Toronto Quarterly, April) admirably summarizes the content 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 revisiting several recent works

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.

ENGLISH X NEWS

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):

1. "Trends in the Study of Arnold, 1930-1952."
Frederick E. Faverty (Northwestern)
2. "An Aspect of Method': Matthew Arnold and Goethe."
Fraser Neiman (William and Mary)

3. "What Should Last in Arnold."
Howard F. Lowry (Wooster)

4. "A Project for a Checklist of Arnold's Letters."
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., H-21 Lowell House, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, before December 20.

Bibliography

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.

F. Gordon Roe, Victorian Furniture. Rev TLS (June 6), p. 372.

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 1785. 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

Ellic Howe and John Child, The Society of London Bookbinders, 1780-1951. Rev
TLS (July 11), p. 460.

Gordon N. Ray, Carl J. Weber, and John Carter, Nineteenth-Century English Books.
Some Problems in Bibliography. Rev TLS (June 20), p. 412.

Criticism

E. D. H. Johnson, The Alien Vision of Victorian Poetry.

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

Duncan Forbes, The Liberal Anglican Idea of History. Rev TLS (May 16), pp. 321-
323, in the front-page article. Forbes gives a new evaluation to the
historical works of Dr. Arnold, Thirlwall, Hare, Milman, and Whately. See
also the letter by Desmond Crowley, "Interpretation of the Past." TLS (May
30), p. 361.

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.

Jack Kaminsky, "The Empirical Metaphysics of George Henry Lewes." JHI (June), pp. 314-332. Lewes believed that what was wrong with metaphysics was its method, not its subject matter. His attempt to impose scientific discipline on metaphysics was a pioneer effort which deserves more study than it has received.

Politics and Economics

J. L. Hammond and M. R. D. Foot, Gladstone and Liberalism. Rev TLS (August 8), p. 515.

Social Background

John W. Dodds, The Age of Paradox: a Biography of England, 1841-1851.

Lady Charlotte Schreiber: Extracts from her Journal, 1853-1891. Edited by the Earl of Bessborough. Rev TLS (August 15), p. 528.

AUTHORS

Arnold

Lillian 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

H. V. Thompson, ed., The North Staffordshire Field Club. Transactions and Annual Report, 1950-1951. Noticed in TLS (May 30), p. 366. In this volume A. E. Dodd identifies the originals of some of the scenes in Lavengro and The Romany Rye.

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.

Sidney T. Irwin, ed., Letters of Thomas Edward Brown. 4th edition. 3 vols. With an Introductory Memoir. Rev TLS (June 6), pp. 369-370.

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.

Brownings

See under Tennyson, article by Lionel Stevenson.

Beatrice Corrigan, "New Documents on Browning's Roman Murder Case." SP (July), pp. 520-533. 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.

Robert B. Pearsall, "Browning's Texts in Galatians and Deuteronomy." MLQ (September), pp. 256-258. Pearsall defends Berdoe's identification of the "great text in Galatians" as Galatians 3:10. The twenty-nine distinct damnations are in Deuteronomy 28:16-44.

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

Robert Ashley, Wilkie Collins. Rev TLS (April 25), p. 282.

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.

Elias Bredsdorff, H. C. Andersen og Charles Dickens. Et Venskab og dets Oplosning. Rev TLS (May 2), pp. 289-290.

K. J. Fielding, "Charles Dickens and Colin Rae Brown." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (September), pp. 103-110. Tells the story of Dickens' threatening the manager of the Glasgow Daily Bulletin with a suit for slander as a result of an alleged statement concerning Dickens and his sister-in-law.

Stephen F. Fogle, "Skimpole Once More." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (June), pp. 1-18. A detailed examination of the facts leads Fogle to conclude that Hunt's ingratitude prompted the portrait in Black House.

Gerald G. Grubb, "Dickens and the 'Daily News': Resignation." Nineteenth-Century Fiction (June), pp. 19-38. The conclusion of a four-part treatment of the whole relationship between Dickens and the Daily News.

Zoltan Haraszti, "A Gift of Rare Books." Boston Public Library Quarterly (April), pp. 67-87. Announces the Lee M. Friedman donation of rare books, containing items by Dickens, Disraeli, Tennyson, and Thackeray.

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

Disraeli

See under Dickens, article by Zoltán Haraszti.

Eliot

Lawrence and Elisabeth Hanson, Marian Evans and George Eliot. A Biography. Rev TLS (August 15), p. 528.

Hardy

Thomas Hardy, Our Exploits at West Poley. 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.

Carl J. Weber, Hardy and the Lady from Madison Square. Rev TLS (April 25), p. 282. See also Robert Slack, "Hardy and Rebekah Owen." TLS (May 30), p. 361, a defence of Professor Weber.

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

Herbert van Thal, ed., Edward Lear's Journals. A Selection. Rev TLS (April 11), p. 253.

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.

The Victorian News Letter - November, 1952 - page 8
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

Sean O'Faolain, Newman's Way: The Odyssey of John Henry Newman.

Henry Tristram, ed., The Idea of a Liberal Education. A Selection from the Works
of Newman. (Contains a forty-page introduction.)

Rossetti, D. G.

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Jan van Hunks. Edited by John Robert Wahl. Noticed in
the Bulletin of the New York Public Library (June), pp. 319-320.

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.

Peter Quennell, ed., Selected Writings of John Ruskin. Rev TLS (May 30), p. 363.

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 Commentar
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 Haraszti.

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.

Lionel Stevenson, "The Pertinacious Victorian Poets." University of Toronto
Quarterly (April), pp. 232-245.

Thackeray

See under Dickens, article by Zoltán Haraszti.

Gordon N. Ray, The Buried Life. An examination of Thackeray's use of real
persons as models for various characters.

John E. Tilford, Jr., "The Love Theme 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.

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.

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 reprinting 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 abridgement 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, "containing 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 PMIA "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

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 quarterlies, monthlies, 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 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.

END