

**The
Victorian Studies Association
Newsletter**



Ontario, Canada.

THE VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Number 14, November 1974 Ontario, Canada

Edited for the Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

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THE VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

As this is the first issue of the Newsletter to appear under my editorship, I may perhaps be allowed to make the earnest request that I be kept informed of any relevant events that come to the attention of members and that they provide me with news of their own doing. I am particularly anxious to get material from outside Toronto and wish to stress that the Toronto-dominated flavour of this issue is to be explained by necessity and not choice.

I would especially welcome contributions to the "Victorian Notes" section. My aim (surely not too idealistic?) is to collect a small backlog of such items so that I do not have to dip into an embarrassingly empty bran-tub whenever the editorial season comes round. I cannot believe that the majority of members do not have an idea at the back of their minds that could be developed into a valuable 1,000-word note. My deadline for submissions to the next issue is February 15: "all contributions gratefully received."

I would like to thank the Graduate Department of English at the University of Toronto for secretarial assistance in preparing this issues. (W.J.K.)

NOTE : The next annual conference of the Association will take place on Saturday, April 12, 1975 at the Glendon College campus of York University. The programme of speakers and events is in the process of being established. Full details will be sent to members when arrangements are complete.

REPORTS OF CONFERENCES

Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

The Annual Conference was held at the Glendon College Campus of York University on Saturday, 6 April 1974. In the morning a paper by Morse Peckham (South Carolina) on "Cultural History, Romanticism and Behaviour" was chaired by Barry Gough (Wilfred Laurier); the afternoon session, chaired by William Coles (Michigan), was devoted to a paper by Trevor Lloyd (Toronto) on "William Morris and the Utopian Novel". Summaries of these conference papers follow this report. A small exhibition of Baxter prints was on display during the conference.

At the business-meeting, J.M. Robson was appointed President. The Executive of the Society is now composed of the following members:

President: J.M. Robson
 Past President: R.J. Helmstadter
 Secretary-Treasurer: A. Robson
 Members at Large : W.J. Keith, M. Laine,
 H.W. McCready, W.D. Shaw,
 A. Tucker, W. Whitla

Morse Peckham, "Cultural History, Romanticism and Behaviour"

The term "Romanticism" can be used to subsume a family of more or less related terms, each of which is applicable to the early Romantics and to their followers, up to the present, and each of which is also applicable to ordinary human behaviour.

Explanatory collapse: the judgement that both Christian and Enlightenment modes of explaining the world have failed. Alienation: the consequent rejection of the values associated with those explanations. Isolation : withdrawal from the society into a condition of very low interation, with the support of a very few like-minded

individuals. The antithesis of role and self: the identification of socially validated patterns of behaviour as roles and the opposition to such roles of the self, which amounts to negation of accepted values or cultural vandalism. Cultural transcendence: the innovation of a new attitude towards the world. Such attitudes are of two sorts. The redemptive: a surrogate for the old redemptive modes of explaining the world. The anti-redemptive: the rejection of the possibility of an alignment of subject and object. The consequence of this was the acceptance of cognitive resolution, or the fusion of subject and object, as in Heaven or redeemed social Utopias. (M.P.)

(Professor Peckham has generously sent us a copy of the full text of his paper. This has been placed in the editorial files and may be consulted by interested members.)

Trevor Lloyd, "William Morris and the Utopian Novel"

Trevor Lloyd presented a paper putting the arguments for regarding Morris's News from Nowhere as a serious work of political argument offered in the form of a utopia; he contended that those of Morris's biographers who had described it as a pastoral romance or a daydream were ignoring its close links with his views about the Middle Ages and about current politics.

The paper examined a number of utopian books in terms of the writers' desire to change social or political conditions, and showed how the pattern of change in Morris's book followed the lines of his Marxist beliefs. In particular, News from Nowhere was compared with Edward Bellamy's Looking Backward to show that one of the central features of Morris's utopia was that everybody had satisfying work to do, and that this was carried to the point that unsatisfying jobs were abolished even if this involved completely giving up their products. The emphasis on work, and the attitudes to money and to politics in the book, were traced back to lectures and pamphlets which

showed Morris's views on political and social questions in a form that could not be dismissed as romantic day-dreaming, and similar evidence was used to show that he saw the Middle Ages as a period that in many ways resembled the imaginary society described in News from Nowhere.

In conclusion the paper examined the book, in its non-political aspects, as a short novel about greater freedom in personal relations and showed how personal freedom, satisfaction in work and the replacement of capitalism by socialism were combined to create a vision of society admitted even by hostile writers to be one of the most attractive of all utopias. (T.L.)

The Victorian Counter-Culture

Phyllis Grosskurth (Toronto) has contributed the following report on the Conference held in Florida earlier this year.

During the meeting of the Learned Societies this past spring I found myself frequently reflecting on the fact that such conferences were getting so large that the only service they performed was a social one. The papers ranged over an absurdly wide variety of topics, and in the question-period comments were diverse and no real dialogue was initiated. I was particularly aware of these deficiencies after attending what, to my mind, a conference should be - the Victorian Counter-Culture interdisciplinary conference at the University of South Florida, Tampa, February 27-March 2, 1974.

Of course it would have been hard to improve on the circumstances. Who wouldn't want to get away from the snowy wastes at that time of year, particularly as we were all housed in the same motel with a swimming pool providing an ideal focus for informal meetings? The numbers were limited to about one hundred and twenty-five and while we belonged to different disciplines, we all shared an interest in the nineteenth century. I have

yet to attend a conference where people seemed so keenly interested in the papers and ensuing discussions. This was due in large measure to the superb organization behind the conference. There was a frequent shuttle-bus service between the motel and the university, and we were provided with related events such as an exhibition of counter-culture art, and performances of Salome, Trial by Jury and Jack the Ripper.

However, the underlying reason for the success of the conference was its format. Each speaker gave an address for forty-five minutes; two respondents spoke extemporaneously for fifteen minutes, thus channeling the ensuing discussion from the floor. It was a sharp contrast with the random, unconnected remarks made by a few brave souls between periods of embarrassed silence at the Learned Societies.

Proceedings were not inaugurated in the most propitious way. The key-note address was delivered by that inveterate attender of conferences, Professor Morse Peckham, who informed us that the idea of a disparate Victorian counter-culture was a chimera. He suggested that anything the conference was going to find interesting belonged to a counter-culture--a point which puzzled a good many of us.

He confidently predicted that Steven Marcus, true to the thesis postulated in The Other Victorians, would point out that today we were simply living more openly in a life-style practised in secret by the Victorians. Professor Marcus, however, surprised not only Peckham but everybody else by utterly disregarding what was generally expected of him. He concentrated on an analysis of aspects of "The Sad Fortunes of the Reverend Amos Barton" as an illustration of the Freudian ambivalences in George Eliot's work. He went on to discuss Daniel Deronda where one is acutely aware of the Victorian artist's reluctance to rend the veil of propriety.

Hillis Miller, in turn, took as his theme alternate modes of faith, particularly Gerard Manley Hopkins' unique relationship to his God. This was the only occasion in which the respondents were disappointing. Both Professor Peckham and Walter Cannon of the Smithsonian Institute drifted off on tangents of their own. Peckham's only real reference to Miller's position was his utter rejection of semantic interpretations of a work of art whereas Miller, a structuralist, had claimed that a great text can lend itself to an almost infinite number of interpretations.

Walter Cannon later spoke on the impact - not influence - of Darwin on nineteenth-century sensibility. It was an eccentric, highly enjoyable performance. My own paper was on Victorian outsiders who chose exile rather than conform to the mores of the time. The respondents, Hillis Miller and Michael Woolf, in their comments concentrated on a dream of J.A. Symonds which I had related. One could sense a good deal of uneasiness since, as someone pointed out, neither literature professors nor historians are qualified to interpret dreams as though they were poems.

The outstanding address - "The Rise of the Cult of Homosexuality in the Upper Classes" - was delivered by Noel Annan. Concentrating on a broad range of figures who embraced Hellenism towards the end of the century, Annan's talk was so learned, incisive and elegant that he brought the audience to its feet.

The most controversial paper at the conference was Gertrude Himmelfarb's "Counter-Cultures in Political and Social Philosophy". Concentrating on the early works of Carlyle and Disraeli, she stressed the radical nature of their thought. Such an approach created a heated argument since people claimed that it was impossible to look at either man without taking into consideration his entire career.

Elizabeth Janeway, the noted feminist, delivered the final paper on the status of women during the course of the nineteenth century. It was a sobering reminder to professional academics that scholarly work of high calibre can be produced by someone with no connection with a university.

The organizers of the conference seemed gratified by the general enthusiasm. On the other hand, there was little doubt that they had not reckoned on the conservative bias of the papers. They had planned a genuine interdisciplinary conference in which the Victorian counterparts of today's problems would be emphasized - the feminist movement, the revolt against parental authority, the search for sensuality, the high incidence of crime, the lure of drugs, and the interest in the occult. Michael Woolf, in his final critique on the conference, pointed out to us the ultra-conservatism of most Victorian scholars in their reluctance to view their period from new perspectives. Nevertheless, the only disgruntled people seemed to be the historians who felt that the bias was too predominantly literary. But, after all, they could skip the papers and bask in the sun around the pool. (P.G.)

History and the History of Science at the Learned Societies

Trevor Levere (Toronto) reports on this joint meeting.

The Canadian Historical Association and the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science had their first joint meeting in Toronto at the Conference of Learned Societies on June 5. The theme for that meeting was firmly situated in Victorian studies, and formed a useful dialogue on 'Science, Medicine and Society in Victorian England'. The principle papers were by Richard French, Science Council ('The Anti-Vivisection Movement in England') and Camille Limoges

of the Institut d'Histoire et de Sociopolitique des Sciences, University of Montreal ('Natural History and Natural Theology -- the Community of Naturalists in England and France'). Comments by Sidney Eisen and Jacques Kornberg underlined both complementary and divergent methodologies, and opened what should be a continuing debate between social historians, intellectual historians, and historians of science. (T.L)

Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada

Stuart Niermeier (Toronto), a participant at this conference, sends us this report.

The third annual conference of the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada was held at the University of Manitoba on Friday and Saturday, October 11 and 12, 1974. The sixty-four registered association members were joined by many visitors both afternoons to hear the keynote speakers, Harvey Dyos of Leicester and Ian Watt of Stanford, deliver their respective papers on "The Metropolitan Connection" and on "Heart of Darkness and Victorian Thought". Morning sessions were given over to papers by association members.

After the welcome, on behalf of the Faculty of Arts, by W.M. Sibley (Vice-President, Planning and Special Assignments, U. of Man.) on Friday morning, Peter Bailey (History, Manitoba) presented an entertaining paper entitled "A Mingled Mass of Perfectly Legitimate Pleasures : The New Leisure World of the Mid-Victorian Middle-Class, Its Practice and Rationale". The second paper of the morning was from Stuart Niermeier (English, Toronto) on the "In Memoriam Manuscripts". Saturday's clear and bracing air revived the crowd of Friday night revellers to hear and receive well the second pair of morning papers, by Mason Harris (English, SFU) on "Arthur

Donnithorne and the Role of the Imagination in Adam Bede", and Juliet McMaster (English, Alberta) on "Thackeray's Things: Time's Local Habitation". Lively discussions followed each of the six papers.

Superbly organized by Peter Noel-Bentley (English, Manitoba), the conference was enthusiastic, illuminating and festive. From the details of transportation (e.g. Airport to Ramada Inn, back and forth from Inn to University for each session) and parking, to the timing of sessions and the arrangements for the Reception and Banquet Friday evening and the Saturday luncheon, the planning was thoughtful and thorough. After the splendid banquet on Friday, we enjoyed an hour of dramatic readings from Dickens by the Irish-Canadian actor, Maurice Good. The conference ended Saturday afternoon, with hopes for an equally successful fourth annual gathering next autumn in Vancouver. (S.M.)

Research Society for Victorian Periodicals

Peter Morgan (Toronto) was one of the participants at this conference, and sends the following report.

The annual meeting of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals took place in Minneapolis, 11-12 October. P. Morgan of Toronto spoke on "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers," and Hans de Groot of the same university on "W.J. Fox and the Utilitarian Criticism of Poetry." Josef Altholz discussed the Catholic Tablet and Arnold Levine's paper on "The Journalistic Career of Sir Henry Cole" was read for him. Glenn Wilson gave a factual and stimulating account of "Charles Kean and the Victorian Press," and Philip Landon discussed the reception in the British press of the Western novels of Owen Wister. Enjoyment of the conference was enhanced by the display of Victorian paintings from the Forbes Magazine Collection. Next year's meeting will take place in Toronto, and suggestions for contributions will be welcomed by Hans de Groot (Department of English, University College, University of Toronto). (P.M.)

MEETINGS, LECTURES

Toronto Group

The group had its first meeting of the season on October 29 at the home of Jack and Ann Robson. Peter Allen (English, Toronto) read a short paper on "Mark Rutherford's Autobiography and Deliverance." The meeting was well attended, and the paper provoked some good discussion, focusing mainly on the extent to which the books can be described as novels, and the possibility that William Hale White's personality and attitudes coloured the selection of his material.

Two more meetings are planned. At the next, on December 5, Merrill Distad (History, Toronto) will lead a discussion on Derek Hudson's Munby : Man of Two Worlds.

University of Toronto

On 16 October, William Swinton (Centennial Professor Emeritus, Massey College) gave a lecture on "Charles Dickens' Views of Science" under the auspices of the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.

On 23 October, Alexander Welsh (California) gave a lecture to the Graduate Department of English entitled "A Practical Joke of the Nineteenth Century." He argued that Victorian novelists used the practical joke as an acceptable way of introducing, through analogy, intimations of cosmic meaninglessness into the realistic tradition of nineteenth-century fiction.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

James D. Benson (Glendon College, York) has an article, "'Sympathetic' Criticism: George Eliot's Response to Contemporary Criticism" forthcoming in Nineteenth-Century Fiction.

Michael Collie (Vanier College, York) has published George Meredith: A Bibliography (University of Toronto Press and Dawson's of Pall Mall, 1974) and an article, "Gissing's Revision of New Grub Street," in The Year Book of English Studies, 4 (1974), 212-224. A Bibliography of the Writings of George Gissing is in the press (Toronto) and should appear in the coming year, as will another article, "How George Gissing Disappeared," in English Studies in Canada.

Winston Collins (University College, Toronto) has published "The Princess: The Education of the Prince" in Victorian Poetry, 11 (Winter 1973), 285-294. Another article, "Enoch Arden, Tennyson's Heroic Fisherman," has been accepted for Victorian Poetry and another "Maud: Tennyson's Point of View," will appear in the Tennyson Research Bulletin.

Eleanor Cook (Victoria College, Toronto) has published Browning's Lyrics: An Exploration (University of Toronto Press, 1974). It is hoped that a review of this book will appear in the next Newsletter.

Hans de Groot (University College, Toronto) is working on a critical edition of the poetry of Christina Rossetti. In connection with this project he has published a brief article, "Christina Rossetti's 'Nightmare' : Fragment Completed," in the Review of English Studies, n.s.24 (1973), 48-52.

Norman Feltes (York) has published an article, "Community and the Limits of Liability in Two Mid-Victorian Novels [The Mill on the Floss and Little Dorrit]," in Victorian Studies, XVII (June 1974), 355-369.

John Ferns (McMaster) has published, in collaboration with Alan Bishop, an article, "'Art in Obedience to Laws': Form and Meaning in Browning's 'Abt Vogler'," in Victorian Poetry, 12 (Spring 1974), 25-32.

Brian Heeney (Trent) has published an article, "The Theory of Parish Ministry in the Mid-Victorian Church of England," in the Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church (September 19740).

W.J. Keith (University College, Toronto) has published The Rural Tradition: A Study of the Non-Fiction Prose Writers of the English Countryside (University of Toronto Press and Harvester Press, 1974). This includes chapters on Mary Russell Mitford, George Borrow, Richard Jefferies, George Sturt and W.H. Hudson. He has recently been invited to become Honorary President of the Richard Jefferies Society on the retirement of Henry Williamson.

Harvey Kerpneck (University College, Toronto) delivered a paper, "Trollope's Effeminate Clergymen," at the Learned Societies meeting.

Norman Mackenzie (Queen's) has published his annotated edition, Poems by Hopkins (Folio Society, 1974). He delivered a paper on "Hopkins, Bridges and the Modern Editor" at the Editorial Conference at Toronto in early November.

Jane Millgate (Victoria College, Toronto) is currently Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh, where she is proceeding with research on Scott.

Michael Millgate (University College, Toronto) is also on leave this year, and is working on his biography of Hardy and his edition (with R.L. Purdy) of Hardy's letters.

J.M. Robson (Victoria College, Toronto) gave a paper on J.S. Mill's ethics at the Canadian Philosophical Association's meeting in June. He attended the Executive and General Meetings of the British Studies Conference at Yale early in November, and will be giving a paper on Victorian Politics and Society in the Minnesota series on the Victorian Mind and Art on November 21. John Stuart Mill's A System of Logic Ratiocinative and Inductive is the latest in the Collected Works of Mill to appear (University of Toronto Press, 1974); the next volume, Essays on Politics and Society is now in the press. He is textual editor of the whole series.

R.J. Schiefen (St. Michael's College, Toronto) read a paper entitled "The English Catholic Reaction to the Tractarian Movement" at a joint meeting of the Canadian Historical Association and the Canadian Catholic Historical Association on June 6. It will be published in the next issue of Study Session, the annual publication of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association.

W.D. Shaw (Victoria College, Toronto) has published "Tennyson's Late Elegies" in Victorian Poetry (Spring 1974), 1-12, and "Mystification and Mystery: Browning's 'Pan and Luna'" in Browning Society of London Notes (July 1974), 2-12.

REQUESTS, QUERIES, COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian Victorian Studies

Trevor Levere of the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (Toronto) writes as follows:

The Canadian Victorian Studies question is one that was prompted by work that Bruce Sinclair and I have been doing for the last couple of years. OUP (Canada) brought out two introductory sets of readings with commentaries this spring; T.H. Levere and R.A. Jarrell, A Curious Field-Book. Science and Society in Canadian History; and B. Sinclair, N.R. Ball, and J.O. Petersen, Let us be Honest and Modest: Technology and Society in Canadian History. Both these works concentrate on the Victorian period in Canadian history, and are intended for the general historian (social, political, economical, whatever) rather than for the specialised historian of science or technology. Bruce is currently on sabbatical pursuing his interests in Canadian Victorian technology, and both of us would be interested in getting together with anyone else who shares our interest, or who has related interests that might well interact. The whole thing is very hazy in our minds, but if we could use the newsletter as a forum it would be very valuable.

As Editor, I shall be pleased to open the pages of the News-letter to discussion of this proposal. Communications should be addressed either to me or to Trevor Levere.

Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada Newsletter

The Editor has received a copy of the latest issue of this Newsletter (February 1974) and is happy to report that C. Gordon Craig, its editor, has suggested a reciprocal interchange of copies, so that each Association

will have a copy of the other's newsletter on file, which can be consulted by members. I welcome this suggestion and hope that it will lead to closer ties between the associations. A list in the February issue of Victorian Periodicals held in the McPherson Library of the University of Victoria may be of special interest to our members.

Research Society for Victorian Periodicals

I have been asked to print the following notice here, and am pleased to do so.

ATTENTION VICTORIAN SCHOLARS

Every student of Victorian history and literature needs to know about Victorian periodicals!

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals welcome new members, as well as new subscribers to its quarterly journal Victorian Periodicals Newsletter. Through its pages scholars can follow the progress of the gigantic computerized Directory of the Victorian Press, check the annual bibliography of current work in the field, take advantage of the world-wide survey of manuscript resources, and read of the latest research.

Membership in the Society is eight dollars, including a subscription to the Newsletter. Subscription only is three dollars for individuals and five dollars for institutions.

Either to join or to subscribe, contact:

N. Merrill Distad
University of Toronto, Dept. of History
Sydney Smith Hall, 100 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1

P.S. Does your library subscribe?

I would like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of members to the important article in the March issue of VPN by H.W. McCready, "Towards a Checklist of MS. Resources for Victorian Periodicals." This is the first, experimental listing of what could become an extremely important bibliographical project. The collaboration of all Victorian scholars will be needed to make it a success; we should do all we can to assist.

John Frederick Denison Maurice Newsletter

This newsletter has been founded to promote the study and exchange of information on Maurice and his circle of influence in all scholarly contexts--theological, educational, literary, social and Victorian studies. It is edited by Merrill Distad (History, Toronto) and James Cox (History, Atkinson College, York). The first issue is in press and its contents include the following: "Maurice, A Sermon" by His Grace, Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury, "The Kingdom of Christ" by Stephen Prickett (Sussex), etc. Copies are gratis to all interested parties; requests should be made to one or other of the editors.

Requests for Information:

a) Theories of Motivation

Michael Collie (Vanier College, York) writes: "I'm doing a study of theories of motivation in the period 1870-1914 and would be grateful for a note from any member of the Association who had documentary evidence of a writer's interest in medical, psychological or sociological theory on this point."

b) Victorian Queries

Phyllis Grosskurth (University College, Toronto) is preparing an edition of the Memoirs of John Addington Symonds, and would welcome answers to any of the following questions:

1. What was the Bastille Dinner?
2. What was the Dilettante Society?
3. Who wrote the lines: "...lay myself upon the knees/Of doom, and take my everlasting ease"?
4. Who was an "extremely erudite" scholar called Woolf?

Then and Now Department

The following timely (or untimely) extract has been sent in by Elliot Rose (History, Toronto). It appeared in The Builder, April 19, 1862.

Oil Wells - The last Canadian papers show that the supplies from the oil wells constitute an increasing topic of attention throughout the province. As the quantities are apparently illimitable, freight is the grand question for consideration. A class of tank vessel will probably have to be created for the purpose. The value of the petroleum, landed at Liverpool, is about 1 s. per gallon, and nearly the whole of this consists of the charges for transport; while the belief in Canada is that under an organized system these charges might be reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gallon, or even lower.

LIBRARY NOTES

A Victorian Natural History Collection

At the request of the editor, the following description of a newly-acquired collection has been prepared by Miss Elizabeth Hulse (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, Toronto)

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto has recently acquired several hundred volumes illustrating the study of natural history in the Victorian period. The collection was put together by Richard Freeman of the University of London, bibliographer of Charles Darwin, and it forms an interesting adjunct to the Darwin Collection which the Library purchased from him several years ago. Most of the books in the Victorian Natural History Collection were written for the amateur, and they demonstrate the great popularity of collecting and classifying scientific specimens, particularly where nature study could be combined with recreation as in J.G. Francis' Beach Rambles in Search of Seaside Pebbles and Crystals (1859). As illustrative of Victorian interests and pastimes, the books have a value for the student of nineteenth century culture as well as for the historian of science.

The collection will also interest anyone studying the development of book production in the nineteenth century. There are many fine examples of pictorial and decorative bindings of the types illustrated in Ruari McLean's new book, Victorian Publishers' Book-bindings. Different methods of book illustration, particularly the growing popularity of chromolithography, first introduced into English books about 1839, are also demonstrated in the collection.

While some of the authors represented in the collection are well-known, many are long forgotten except to the specialist. Some, like Philip Henry Gosse, Edward Newman, or William Swainson, wrote about their own work in a popular way, while others, like John George Wood and Mary Roberts, popularized the writings of other scientists. Many books were written in an attempt to reconcile the teachings of science and religion, a theme well illustrated by such titles as Hugh Miller's Foot-prints of the Creator (1858). Other books by this self-taught geologist include The Testimony of the Rocks (1857), The Sketch-book of Popular Geology (1859), and his autobiography, My Schools and Schoolmasters (1858).

Many Victorian writers on natural history combined their scientific interests with other careers. Edward Newman, a founder of the Entomological Society, and now best known for his History of British Ferns (1840), was an active businessman. Charles Kingsley is represented in this collection by several editions of his Glaucus; or, the Wonders of the Seashore (1859), written after a winter spent at Torquay for his health. John George Wood was a clergyman who for ten years lectured on natural history in Britain and America, illustrating his lectures with black-board drawings. His books were very popular and are well represented in the collection.

Predominant among popular writers on science in the Victorian era was Philip Henry Gosse, and the collection contains some thirty titles in many editions. His first book, The Canadian Naturalist (1840), was written after a stay of several years in Lower Canada. Another work, The Birds of Jamaica (1847), was also based on original observation, and the Library now owns a copy of the rare Illustrations of the Birds of Jamaica (1849), drawn and lithographed by Gosse himself. But Gosse is best known for his work in marine biology, his

most important work in this field being his study of sea-anemones, Actinologia Britannica (1860). But he achieved greater popularity and started a new hobby for Victorian homes when he explained in The Aquarium (1854) how sea life could be kept alive in captivity. The success of this work led to two further books the following year, his Handbook to the Marine Aquarium and the Manual of Marine Zoology for the British Isles, both frequently reprinted. Other popular works represented in the collection in several editions are The Romance of Natural History (two series), the five volumes published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge with the general title Natural History, and his Evenings at the Microscope. Gosse throughout his writings stressed the importance of observing the habits of animals, preferably in their natural habitat, and thus forms an antidote to the many writers who promoted the collecting of birds and butterflies and other living creatures for the specimen case at home.

The Victorian Natural History Collection is available to anyone interested in the nineteenth century. The books are not yet catalogued, but a file listing the works by author may be consulted in the Thomas Fisher Library. (E.H.)

VICTORIAN NOTES

"Early Victorian Acupuncture" by Elliot Rose

Browsing recently through early volumes of the Lancet, in search of something else, I came across a number of references to acupuncture. This shouldn't have been surprising; the word is neither modern nor Chinese, and knowledge of the art could have been brought to Europe by 17th century Jesuits. As a matter of fact it seems to

have been introduced by a Dutch surgeon called Ten-Rhyme who accompanied a diplomatic mission (information from Jack Cramer-Byng), and may have been introduced over again by returning medical missionaries, though my Lancet references are too early for that. The Lancet knew about Ten-Rhyme; it quotes (vol.1 (1823) 200-01) a description of Japanese practice from a 1683 review of his book (on gout, by "Dr. Rhyme" which I presume is he). Earlier (same vol., 19) it reported a case of successful relief of dropsy, using first a "common needle" and later a glover's needle. In a later case of "ganglions" (1837-8, vol.2, 769) the patient's own embroidery needle was used. From these details and from the whole style of the reports it is clear that the operation was experimental-usually resorted to after medication had failed. Although the word was quite familiar to the medical profession (it occurs fairly regularly as an index heading and is nowhere explained) the practice obviously wasn't. It looks as if Thomas Wakley, founder and first editor of The Lancet, wanted to encourage it; so, certainly, did the controversial Professor John Elliotson, of the University of London and University College Hospital (after 1831), whose lectures the Lancet regularly reported. Elliotson also advocated the stethoscope, phrenology and hypnotism; over this last he quarreled with the College Council in 1838 and was forced to resign. His DNB article, by Robert Hunt F.R.S., is still respectful about phrenology and utterly scornful about hypnotism; it doesn't mention acupuncture at all. Perhaps it had been forgotten again by the 'eighties! In a hasty search of an incomplete run, I found nothing in the Lancet after 1839.

In vol. 10 (1826), 794, Wakley praised the Chinese method of examining acupuncturists for their professional qualification; this may have been his way of getting at the London Colleges, but he had to know something about it. The other references are reports of cases, on their own or in a hospital lecture: from France (1826, vol.10 719), in the spine, for paralysis; by a British doctor

in India (1831-2, vol. 2, 672) for rheumatism; from Switzerland (1838-9, vol. 2 768) in the heart for epilepsy; all the rest from Britain and mostly for rheumatism, lumbago or dropsy. Except for the French and Swiss cases it is clear that the application was local, in the painful place, and that nobody was paying any attention to the Chinese theory of related parts of the body, basic to acupuncture as we now understand it - a theory which is nevertheless mentioned by Wakley in his note on examinations. Plainly the readiness of Western medical men, even iconoclastic ones, to adopt the methods of the East or to learn, in any exact way, what they were, was strictly limited, which is not surprising. In the days before the Opium War contact with China was slender anyway, and with Japan it was nil. But I wonder what would have happened if Elliotson (he died in 1868) had been less of an all-round maverick, and had been a respectable professor for another thirty years? Perhaps the Lancet would have become the Golden Needle. (E.R.)