

for which no provision seems to have been made. There is a scholarly chapter on international relations by J. R. Hale, which provides the setting for one on the invasions of Italy. There are two essays on the expansion of Europe and its impact on the Old World. The latter, unfortunately, is concerned almost solely with economic consequences and ignores the influence of the New World on the intellectual and cultural history of Europe.

Although this first volume of *The New Cambridge Modern History* contains much useful information, there is no fresh synthesis for the period as a whole. There is a good index, but no bibliography.

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John Locke: A Biography. By Maurice Cranston. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1957. Pp. xvi, 496. Frontispiece, illustrations, index. \$8.00.)

"John Locke," writes Maurice Cranston, in bringing this volume to a close, "was a great man; indeed so great a man that his biographer cannot grasp the measure of that greatness. His biographer is perforce too close to him. Only an historian of European thought with a panoramic vision, could judge his stature. But this at least one can say here: Locke did not merely enlarge men's knowledge, he changed their way of thinking." The author's comment in itself is remarkable, for it amounts to saying that those who most thoroughly know Locke are somehow less fitted to know Locke as a great and influential thinker than are those who know him less well. Yet, somehow at the same time, the biographer does know that he was a very great man. How he knows it, except on the word of others who presumably know less about his subject than he does, is not indicated. Mr. Cranston, however, can document his conclusion by pointing to the biography which he himself has written, for it is seldom that the greatness of Locke breaks through the details of his life to impress itself upon the consciousness of the reader.

The biography itself is based upon more complete sources than any earlier work dealing with Locke. It is the first biography in which the author has been able to take full advantage of the Lovelace Collection, now the property of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. This collection contains approximately three thousand letters besides a thousand miscellaneous manuscripts which include such disparate material as Locke's library lists, his notebooks on politics, economics, philosophy, etc., and even his entries of recipes and inventories, as well as his own personal journals. Mr. Cranston has also succeeded in breaking the secret cyphers, and the personal shorthand system, used by the remarkably secretive philosopher of common sense. In consequence, he has produced a work which, when read in conjunction with Fox Bourne's earlier biography, provides a complete and very useful portrayal of the details and somewhat striking peculiarities of Locke's life. It is a volume, however, which is of much greater value for the Locke scholar than for those less conversant with Locke's intellectual contributions

to the western world. The reader who is only superficially acquainted with Locke's work in philosophy and political theory is likely to be led astray by this biography, for it is rather surprising that the essential element of Locke's life, the growth of his intellectual vision and the development of his philosophy, receives relatively superficial consideration, upon the whole.

This treatment is unfortunate on two counts. First, the reader is left uncertain about the very facts of Locke's life which it is most important that he know, while at the same time he is provided with all kinds of information about Locke's expenditures for combs, candles, tips for servants, as well as the details of his relations with insignificant people. Second, it is unfortunate because Mr. Cranston would seem to be particularly fitted to the performance of the more important task. His earlier work, *Freedom: A New Analysis*, shows that he has considerable ability to handle ideas, to see relationships between seemingly separated categories, and to express these matters in clear and precise language. It is to be hoped that he will now turn his attention to the development of Locke's thought. As matters now stand, his biography provides us with a two dimensional picture of Locke, and what is missing is the essential dimension of depth.

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English Historical Documents. Volume XII, Part 1, 1833-1874. Edited by G. M. Young and W. D. Handcock. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1956. Pp. xxiii, 1017. Bibliographies and index. \$15.00.)

This selection of mid-nineteenth century contemporary sources of English history is the fifth published volume of *English Historical Documents*, compiled under the general editorship of David C. Douglas. It is one of two volumes on the Victorian age. These will be the last (chronologically) of a monumental series designed "to make generally accessible a wide selection of the fundamental sources of English history" (p. iii).

Without question, teachers and students of nineteenth century English and European history will find this work invaluable. The editors have successfully achieved their aim of illustrating the "profound transformation of English society" during "the epoch of Britain's greatest influence in the world" (p. 3). Two hundred and sixty-nine documents are presented in a volume divided into twelve parts: the monarchy; parliament; natural resources and economic changes; the churches; Chartism and free trade; law, penal system, and courts; central administration; local government; the Poor Law; public health; education; industrial conditions and legislation. Imperial and foreign policy are excluded on the ground that they are well covered in other collections and that they had little effect upon the central theme of Victorian history. Irish affairs are postponed for treatment in Volume XII, Part 2. Nevertheless, the complexity of the Victorian age is vividly illustrated.