TOCQUEVILLE. The 3rd vol. of the Œuvres complètes, Écrits et discours politiques (Texte établi et annoté par A. Jardin. Introd. par J.-J. Chevallier et A. Jardin) has been published by Gallimard, 558 pp. Vols i, ii, v, vi and ix have also appeared. The series is published under the direction of J.-P. Mayer. J. Lively, in The Social and Political Thought of A. de T., Oxford, Clarendon Press, 263 pp., concludes that T.'s thought 'has the faults of an insistently practical view. It is weakest at those points where political theory shades off into and requires general philosophical enquiry.' The book is rev. FS, Jan. 1963.


THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
(POST-ROMANTIC)

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I. General

No strikingly new trends in research on the literature of the later 19th c. have become evident during the past year. In poetry, Rimbaud and Mallarmé still lead the field, while in the novel Zola retains his pre-eminent position. The rehabilitation of writers such as Corbière and Gobineau has this year been carried several stages further, and there is at last some serious work to report on Becque. The Maeterlinck and Barrès centenaries have been celebrated with due reverence, although the status of these writers does not seem to have been modified significantly in the process.

The most important general crit. study is probably that by G. Poulet, Les Métamorphoses du Cercle, Plon, 1961, xxxii + 526 pp. The author sets out to study what he calls 'l'espace spirituel dans lequel se meuvent les écrivains et se déroulent leurs œuvres', and he applies his method with intriguing results to many authors, including, in our period, Baudelaire, Flaubert, Mallarmé and
Amiel; see rev. *RS*H, 107. *Langue et Littérature*, BFPLUL, clxi; Paris, Les Belles-Lettres, 1961, 448 pp., touches on many problems relevant to the lit. of the period under review, with special contributions on Bloy, Corbière, Flaubert and Mallarmé. A. Thérive considers ‘Schopenhauer et la litt.’, *RDM*, 7, and concentrates mainly on the purely lit. qualities of S.’s writing. There is a fascinating art. by G. Ridge on ‘The femme fatale in French decadence’, *FR*, xxxiv, 4; starting from Baudelaire, this critic studies his theme not simply as the expression of a lit. fashion, but as a symptom of a profound social malaise. The same critic analyses ‘Representative ideas of the death wish in 19th c. French lit.’, *KFLQ*, vii, 3; Flaubert, Leconte de Lisle and Villiers de l’Isle Adam are among the authors studied.

L. Rièse, *Les Salons litt. parisiens du Second Empire à nos jours*, Toulouse, Privat, 274 pp., is indispensable background reading for students of the period; much new light is cast on this obviously important but much neglected aspect of lit. life in the last hundred years; see rev. *NRF*, 116. The Comtesse de Pange continues her memoirs, ‘Comment j’ai vu 1900’, in *RDM*, 3, 7, 8, 13 and 14. M. Bach, in ‘A review of Second Empire reviews’, *FR*, xxxv, 3, provides useful notes on the major lit. journals in Paris a hundred years ago. The book by M. Thomas noted last year, *L’Affaire sans Dreyfus* (*YWML*, xxiii, 105), has provoked much comment; H. Guillemin, for example, in ‘L’Affaire pas morte’, *TM*, 186 and 188, takes Thomas to task for having tried to understand the generals’ point of view, while A. Dansette, in ‘L’Affaire sans Dreyfus’, *RPa*, lxix, 8, stresses the relevance to our own times of the issues so hotly debated at the time of the Dreyfus case. F. Mauriac, ‘L’Affaire vue par un enfant’, *ib.*, lxix, 2, takes a rather similar point of view and concludes that ‘l’indifférence des Français d’aujourd’hui à l’histoire d’hier est confondante’.

2. Poetry

R. Petibon, *L’Influence de la pensée religieuse indienne dans le romantisme et le Parnasse; Jean Lahor*, 2 vols, Nizet, 323 and 132 pp., is a large-scale investigation of the whole question of the infiltration of Oriental, and more specifically Hindu, thought into France in the middle of the 19th c.; in this process of absorption Leconte de Lisle and Lahor played particularly important roles which Petibon