THE NINETEENTH CENTURY
(POST-ROMANTIC)

By R. M. GRIFFITHS, Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford
(Items in French are published in Paris, unless otherwise stated)

I. General

Though this has on the whole been a quiet year in post-Romantic studies, certain authors — Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Flaubert — have, true to form, continued to attract a great deal of attention, and Flaubert in particular has been the object of some quite substantial work. Certain 'minor' authors have been attracting more attention than usual: Gobineau, partly because it is his 150th anniversary, and partly owing to the increase of interest in his work; and certain authors of the Commune and of the Left — Darien, Pottier, Rochefort — have been extensively re-edited. As usual, the theatre is less well represented than the other genres.

There are four works of general interest on the period, and one article. E. Carassus, Le Snobisme et les Lettres Françaises de Paul Bourget à Marcel Proust, Colin, 639 pp., while treating what might appear to some to be a superficial subject, in fact produces a study central to the understanding of the society and literature of the period. Encyclopaedic in its scope, this work is above all of value as a work of reference. It collects and classifies facts, rather than producing new theories. Helped by an excellent index and bibl., it covers all aspects of the phenomenon, political, philosophical, aesthetic, literary and mondain. R. M. Griffiths, The Reactionary Revolution: The Catholic Revival in French Literature 1870-1914, London, Constable, 393 pp., is an examination by themes of various elements, literary, theological, political, in the works of the Catholic authors of the period, with special reference to Huysmans, Bloy, Péguy and Claudel. M. C. Bancquart, Les Écrivains et l'Histoire d'après Maurice Barrès, Léon Bloy, Anatole France, Charles Péguy, Nizet, 390 pp., is a fascinating study of the reaction of four writers, Catholic and non-Catholic, against positivist methods in history. The only fault is a certain
neglect of some of the theological bases for the Catholics’ methods. For the last 100 pages there is an interesting examination of the treatment by historians of the theme of Jeanne d’Arc in the period. R. M. Adams, *Nil. Episodes in the literary conquest of void*, New York, Oxford U.P., 248 pp., is hampered by inadequate definition of its subject-matter. Ranging over European and American literature, from Melville to Novalis, from de Quincey to Gogol, the author also touches on some authors from our period: Mallarmé, Baudelaire, Leconte de Lisle, Flaubert. Comparative literature on such a scale can become very flou, and this book, through lack of continuity of theme, does not avoid that danger. There is no index or bibl.

J. Prinet and A. Dilasser, *Nadar (Kiosque)*, Colin, 284 pp., is an excellent study of the famous photographer, journalist, caricaturist, editor, and aeronaut, whose life impinges on so many aspects of the society of our period. There is a particularly good section on Hetzel, whose own exhibition, at the Bibl. Nat. this year, is commemorated by a full catalogue, *De Balzac à Jules Verne, un grand éditeur du XIXe siècle: P.-J. Hetzel*, Bibl. Nat., xiii + 92 pp.

2. Poetry

P. de Boisdeffre has produced an anthology, *La Poésie française de Baudelaire à nos jours*, Perrin, 834 pp., which contains some poetry of our period, but not as much as one might expect.

**BANVILLE.** An article by E. Souffrin, ‘B. et la mort de Heine’, *RLC*, xl, 187–211, which studies B.’s relationship to Heine and to his poetry, is mainly based on B.’s poem of 1856, *À Henri Heine* (see also below under MALLARMÉ).

**BAUDELAIRE.** This year a third volume of L. Bopp’s mammoth work *Psychologie des ‘Fleurs du Mal’*, Geneva, Droz, 724 pp., has appeared. Using the same precise techniques as in the previous volumes (*YWML*, xxvi, 137–8) the author here takes us to the more central problems of B.’s poetic creation. The title of the volume is *La Pensée poétique*. One may quarrel with M. Bopp’s method, but not with his thoroughness or his erudition. Other new books on B. include C. Mauron, *Le Dernier B.*, Corti, 190 pp. Here the author directs his psycho-