II. FRENCH STUDIES*

LANGUAGE

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1. General

It is something of a disappointment that this latest harvest in the field of studies of the French language is somewhat meagre in quantity, though certainly not in quality. This is the case for a variety of reasons: firstly, and most importantly, fewer books and monographs have been published than usual; secondly, none of the projected vols or fascs of dictionaries in the course of publication have come to hand so far; thirdly, individual issues, and in a few cases entire vols, of certain journals have appeared either late or not at all; fourthly, periodicals which cover a wider scope have included few if any articles on the French language, and fifthly, one journal which is concerned exclusively with this topic has reduced from four to two the number of issues which constitute the annual volume. It is to be hoped that the consequences of this unfortunate combination of circumstances are both anomalous and temporary, rather than a sign of things to come. It is not surprising, therefore, that several of the usual headings are not included in the present survey because of lack of material.

However, it is encouraging to be able to report that Actes . . . (Aix-en-Provence), v, which is the first vol. in the projected series of nine to be published, and which contains a number of items of French interest, has appeared, and that others, the first of which is in fact currently available, are scheduled to do so in the course of the coming year. This is in pleasant contrast with the fact that only one vol. of the Acts of the preceding Congress which was held in Palma de Mallorca in 1980 has been published to date, and that no word has been heard as yet about the publication of the proceedings of the previous Congress, which took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1977. B. Quemada, 'Les réformes du français', Fodor and Hagège, Language Reform, iii, pp. 79–177, provides an important original and detailed analysis of the influence exerted by the needs of specialized groups on the development of the language from the Old French period to the present day.

2. Linguistic Theory

A. S. Allen, 'French reduplication limits the arbitrariness of the sign', Baldi, Papers, pp. 3–14; P. M. E. Brasselmann, 'Das “Geheimnis” des

*The place of publication of books is Paris unless otherwise stated.
3. PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY


4. GRAMMAR

K. Togeby, *Grammaire française*, iv: *Les mots invariables*, Copenhagen, Akademisk Forlag, 323 pp. (see *YWMLS*, 45:24), has appeared; this is the last of the revised and expanded versions of the same author’s *Fransk Grammatik*, Copenhagen, Gylendals, 1965, xxxv + 963 pp.; the