LITERATURE, 1880-1945
By David Horrocks, Lecturer in German in the University of Keele

I. General

literary histories and surveys. Autorenlexikon deutschsprachiger Literatur des 20. Jahrhunderts, ed. Manfred Brauneck, Reinbek, Rowohlt, 714 pp., includes not only all the main authors of our period but also writers of children’s and popular literature, essayists, critics, and philosophers. Most entries have a brief biography followed by major works listed chronologically by genres. No details of secondary literature are given, but useful general bibliographies on periods such as ‘Von der Jahrhundertwende zur Weimarer Republik’ and ‘Literatur im Dritten Reich’ are supplied at the end of the volume. Recommended as a reliable quick reference work. Three volumes in the attractively produced and illustrated Hermes Handlexikon series (Düsseldorf, ECON Taschenbücher) contain material relevant to our period: Die Literatur-Nobelpreisträger, ed. Gertrude Wilhelm, 1983, 384 pp., has articles on Mommsen, Eucken, Heyse, Hauptmann, Spitteler, Thomas Mann, and Hesse. Synchromopse der Weltliteratur, comp. Gertrude Wilhelm, 1983, 288 pp., is a useful comparative reference work, listing German texts by year of publication alongside those of American, Asian, and other European literatures. Manfred Prill, Die Klassiker der modernen deutschen Literatur, 262 pp., covers 43 authors of our period. The entries are generally reliable and informative, but some of the bibliographies include minor or highly specialized items whilst omitting essentials like the Briefe an Felice in the case of Kafka.