

Edwardians, like the Elizabethans, the Jacobean, the Carolines, the Georgians, the Victorians and the neo-Georgians, were a mixed lot. This attempt to class them, to stigmatize them with adjectives is unscientific, sentimental." There is always the saving grace of individuality to relieve the uniform folly and cruelty of the mass. Even in the ghastly climax, when "the idiot's tale held too much of sound and fury to be borne," there are still "amazing flashes of intelligence, of valour, of beauty, of sacrifice, of love." Rome, the most detached of the Gardens, gives the final interpretation:

A silly story if you will, but a somewhat remarkable one. Told by an idiot, and not a very nice idiot at that, but an idiot with gleams of genius and of fineness. The valiant dust that builds on dust—how valiant, after all, it is. No achievement can matter, and all things done are vanity, and the fight for success, and the world's applause is contemptible and absurd, like a game children play, building their sand castles which shall so soon one and all collapse; but the queer enduring spirit of enterprise which animates the dust we are is not contemptible nor absurd.

ROBERT MORSS LOVETT.

The Democratic Machine, 1850-1854, by Roy Franklin Nichols. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. \$2.50.

A CAREFULLY prepared doctoral dissertation, which, while possessing next to no importance for the history of American society, is an illuminating contribution to the personalities and political methods that dominated our federal government in the middle of the last century.

H. E. B.

Contributors

HENRI BARBUSSE, French author, has published, among other books, *Feu* and *L'Enfer*.

WALTER LOCKE is editorial writer on the *Nebraska State Journal*, a newspaper whose genuine progressivism long antedated the formation of the Progressive party and has since survived unabated.

ALAN D. MCKILLOP is connected with Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

MARK VAN DOREN is a college instructor in English, and a contributor of poetry and criticism to various magazines.

GEORGE O'NEIL is one of the editors of *The Measure*.

HAZEL HALL who lives in Portland, Oregon, has for the past five years frequently contributed poetry to current periodicals. She is the author of *Curtains* and *The Walkers*.

ALBERT PARKER FITCH, president of Andover Theological Seminary, Cambridge, from 1909-1917 and later professor of the history of religion at Amherst College, is the author of *Religion and the Undergraduate*, *Can the Church Survive in the Changing Order?* and *Preaching and Paganism*. His most recent book is *None So Blind*, a novel of Harvard life published by Macmillan.

S. E. MORISON, formerly a lecturer in history at Harvard, is now professor of American history at Oxford University. During the war he served as a private in the United States infantry. Mr. Morison has written, among other books, *The History of the Constitution of Massachusetts* and *The Maritime History of Massachusetts*.

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