

peaceful acceptance by the native population, apart from occasional outbursts, belongs to later in the 19th century, and will no doubt be told in the second volume on which Dr. Handley is now working. This is all too short an account of a fascinating book which is full of sidelights on such widely separate subjects as the " sack-em up men," David Livingstone, the etymology of *navvy*, prize-fights, Fr. Theobald Mathew, and trade unions.

The Bibliography has some lacunae which leave it rather one-sided with regard to the first chapter. For example, Dom Odo Blundell's *Catholic Highlands of Scotland* might well be included, for the sake of those who cannot consult Prof. Smith's unpublished MS on the history of Scottish Catholics in Penal Times. Dom Odo's second volume has most of the material given by Dr. Handley on pp. 14-15. And it is a pity to ignore Dr. Douglas Simpson's works on the Celtic Church, or Professor Childe's *Prehistory of Scotland*. There are a few misprints still to be corrected: pp. 17, 20, 85, 129, 183, 247, 253, 279, 328. Lastly, grateful though one must be to Cork University Press (and to the University of London Publications Fund), for so valuable a book, something ought to be said about the way in which the publishers have produced the volume. The type is mercifully legible, but its arrangement is poor; and the binding is deplorable. The first edition was hideous in design, but was helped out by a dust-cover which was simple and dignified. In the second edition the cover is somewhat improved, but the dust-cover has been replaced by another of more " popular " type, showing a husky but obviously sweet-natured Irish lad on the point of leaving his native hills for the pitheads of Scotland. Surely Cork University Press can do better than this. Indeed, in Cork itself another firm of publishers is already showing the way.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

SELECTED POEMS OF HUGH MACDIARMID. Edited by R. Crombie Saunders. No. 6 Poetry Scotland Series. (William MacLellan, Glasgow. 6s.).

POETRY SCOTLAND. Second series. Edited by Maurice Lindsay. (Illustrated). (William MacLellan. 5s.).

The Scottish literary revival, which began roughly twenty years ago, has reached during the last six years a new stage which is attracting widespread interest not only among the Scottish reading public but even in England. When the war began the movement was still apparently only Hugh MacDiarmid. He was neglected to an astonishing degree in his own country. Most of his books were hard to get. His most loyal followers were small groups of students in the Scottish universities. He had no regular publisher, and no certain channel for the communication of his poetry and criticism to the reading public. All this is changed. MacDiarmid is still easily the most considerable figure in Scottish letters to-day, and

one of the few outstanding poets in Britain. But he now has something of a "school," with the rise of several interesting writers from the groups of young men who were, before the war, his chief listeners. Douglas Young, Sorley Maclean, George Campbell Hay, George Bruce, William Montgomerie are guarantee that in Scots and in Gaelic new life is developing, owing much to MacDiarmid but sufficiently independent and enterprising to add to his achievement and to assure the continuation of the revival after him.

Of primary importance is the fact that the movement has at last found its publisher. William MacLellan with the *Poetry Scotland Series*, and the occasional magazine *Poetry Scotland* has met an old need. His books are well designed, although the printing could be much better; and he and his editors have shown a breadth of mind which suggests that this publishing effort is going to survive the dangers of clique and heresy hunt which have damaged some previous Scottish enterprise of the same kind. They have brought together not only the immediate disciples of MacDiarmid but also some who, like Ruthven Todd and Edwin Muir, have gone their own way with varying degrees of acknowledged or unacknowledged indebtedness to him. The two issues of the magazine which have appeared to date have been marked by a vigour and freshness rare in British poetry periodicals. The contents have been too varied for generalisation, but special notice should be made of the critical articles by Neil Gunn, MacDiarmid and J. F. Hendry, and of the reviews. The latter, and especially three articles on William Soutar by different writers, are marked by general objectivity and fairness. It is a sign of the strength of the new movement that it can speak generously and fairly of lesser forerunners such as Murray, the author of "*Hamewith*," and Violet Jacob.

The selection of MacDiarmid's poems is excellent. It draws chiefly on his earlier volumes, those published between 1925-39 and the bulk of it is in Scots. It is perhaps a pity that his translations from Scottish Gaelic are omitted, although these can be found in the *Golden Treasury of Scottish Verse* which MacDiarmid edited a few years ago. (Macmillan, 8s. 6d.) And for completeness sake some of the polyglot polemic of the last five years would have been welcome. Except for what is given in the autobiography *Lucky Poet* it is not easily accessible to most people. Anyone who wants to know what MacDiarmid represents, and what has been happening in Scottish letters, will find an adequate introduction through the numbers of *Poetry Scotland*, the selection of MacDiarmid's poems, and his long introduction and notes in the *Golden Treasury of Scottish Verse*. All these books have glossaries of Scots which would not take long to master, but most readers will find, even without the glossaries, something of the beauty of MacDiarmid's poems; and in *Poetry Scotland* there is verse in English, or very easy Scots, which deserves to be read.

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