

Oklahoma Books

Lord Macaulay: Victorian Liberal, by Richmond Croom Beatty. University of Oklahoma Press, 1938. \$3.00.

FOR years the standard biography of Lord Macaulay has been that written by his nephew Sir G. O. Trevelyan. Professor Richmond Croom Beatty of Vanderbilt University has written a definitive study of Macaulay after extensive scholarly examination of the eleven-volume *Journal* in the library of Trinity College, in addition to material more easily accessible.

This book is an important contribution to the field of English biography, particularly because it presents Macaulay in relation to his age—and not as an individual nineteenth century essayist and statesman separated from his contemporaries.

Thomas Babington Macaulay, at the incredible age of four, was a prodigious and sincere reader; he was to acquire the substitute title "Babble-tongue" at Trinity College for his vitriolic and incessant oratorical championship of middle class causes; he was known to have memorized *Paradise Lost*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and the Holy Bible. This photographic mental ability by no means is evidence that he was a great thinker, for in reality he was little more than a Whig politician whose contributions to the *Edinburgh Review* were intensely biased—as much in idolatry of Milton as they were contemptuous of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and the Restoration Drama.

The son of slavery's opponent, Zachary Macaulay, and protege of Hannah More, Lord Macaulay was twice member of the House of Commons, leader of the passage of the Reform Bill, and author of the five volume *History of England From the Accession of James Second*, one of the most distinguished pieces of historical writing and his most important work.

Professor Beatty has accomplished the one feat so difficult in scholarly writing—this portrayal is both historically accurate and readable even for those outside this field of interest. A clearer understanding of the Whig party, nineteenth Century "liberalism," the idea behind Macaulay's reactions to the literary great among his contemporaries, and his everyday life from personal anecdotes are to be found in this well annotated and indexed volume.

MARGARET E. REDDING.

Choral reading

Marguerite Smith, '35ex, of Tulsa, is author of a new book called *Wings to Fly*, published by the Expression Company, Boston. It is a handbook of choral reading for the teacher of English.

Loan shark expose

Evils in the small loan field in Oklahoma are revealed in a new book, *Oklahoma's Small Loan Problem*, by Dr. Findley Weaver, director of the Bureau of Business Research of the College of Business Administration at the University.

The book charges unregulated loan companies are intolerably exploiting wage earners. Dr. Weaver suggests that the loan companies be put under more strict state regulations.

"Unregulated loan companies openly and knowingly violate the usury law and make no attempt at legal evasion," the survey charges. "They have devised, however, numerous schemes to prevent anyone who brings a usury charge from proving the law has been violated."

Ponca Indian history

A detailed history of the Ponca Indian agency in Oklahoma, from its establishment in 1877 to 1893, is being written by J. Stanley Clark, '32ma, who is now an assistant instructor in history and candidate for Ph. D. degree at the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Clark, who in 1937 was supervisor of a WPA study of Indian and pioneer history at Oklahoma City, plans to spend a year working on Indian agency papers in the Library of Congress at Washington before completing his history.

Constituents' advice sought

Joe B. Thompson, '27law, newly elected state senator from Ardmore, won many editorial compliments in newspapers over the state for a novel experiment before opening of the new session of the legislature.

The following editorial from the Norman Transcript is typical of the favorable comments:

The new state senator from Ardmore, Joe B. Thompson, has gone about the job of trying to serve his constituents in a commendable, intelligent way.

He started out by doing something heretofore unknown in the field of government and politics; he published a large ad in an Ardmore newspaper asking his constituents how they wanted him to vote on a number of important issues.

Among those he named were the runoff primary, unicameral legislature, state highway patrol, ports of entry at state borders, patronage, merit system of selecting state employes, amount of old age pensions that should be paid, and desired changes in the tax structure.

If a reasonable portion of the citizens of his district co-operate with Senator Thompson, so that he can go to the capitol well informed on what they want, he should make a fine record there, at least insofar as his home folks are concerned.

If every member of the Legislature also went to the capitol similarly informed and tried honestly to serve his constituents as well, we would see a remarkable transformation within the next year in Oklahoma state government.

Too Important to Miss

Lord Macaulay

VICTORIAN LIBERAL

By

Richmond Croom Beatty

Recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club

"Lively, readable biography. Will be read for sake of its vivacious style."—*New York Herald Tribune*.

"A well written and soundly critical story."—*New York Times*.

"Best biography of Macaulay . . . Outstanding in its fairness."—*Time*.

"Intelligent and scholarly biography of a great apologist whose extraordinary talents were allied to one of the most uncharming personalities English Podsnappery—so rich in such personalities—has produced."—*New Yorker*.

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Charles Miles, '22, Manager