

BRIEFLY NOTICED

We wish to draw the attention of our readers to Campbell Lennie's biography of Edwin Landseer: THE VICTORIAN PARAGON, Hamish Hamilton, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1979, 259 pp., 30 illustrations, \$17.95, which is written with extraordinary acumen showing both the strengths and weaknesses of Landseer's painterly achievement. The author's probing into Landseer's mind, so rich in contradictions, ambivalences and odd tergiversations makes the work a fascinating one to every student of Victorian art.

F.G.

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Margaret Lourie has issued a meticulously edited and annotated edition of William Morris's The Defence of Guenevere and Other Poems (1858), Garland English Texts, Number 2, Garland Publishing Inc., New York and London, 1981, 262 pp., \$40.00. Mrs. Lourie's long introduction stresses -- an emphasis long overdue -- the extremely sombre aspects of this volume: Morris's sharp focus, time and again, on brutality, terror, horror, whether in the form of sadism and other inflictions of pain or in the form of blank despair, the facing of physical annihilation. Yeats's reading of WM as the "happiest of poets" is thus balanced and adroitly corrected. The reader will gratefully turn to this illuminating edition of the poet's strongest and, in many respects, most representative verse collection. The text follows the original edition of 1858 but makes use of certain significant variants found in the Kelmscott Press edition of 1892.

F.G.