

skillful in suggesting the interaction of different planes of reality. (p. 200)

The influence of Plato and the Bible, as well as Dante, on English fantasy literature is a central theme of the book. Kingsley, MacDonald, Kipling all owe much to the Christian Platonic tradition, but Nesbit is in many ways the greatest Platonist of them all, according to Prickett. He makes very interesting comparisons between the endings of The Enchanted Castle and The Magic City on the one hand, and the end of Dante's Paradiso. In summing up he writes:

In 'Art' the mystery and urgency of other worlds had largely faded or become dissipated. It was left to children's writers such as Nesbit to create anew, and at a different level of experience, the 'high fantasy' of a world too rich and complex to be contained by the conventions of Victorian naturalism. (p. 235)

The plates, from a contemporary print of Strawberry Hill to illustrations of Nesbit's books by H. R. Millar, are well-selected and clearly reproduced. The book, however, has more than its share of misprints, and in one instance what should be the top line of one page appears instead at the top of the next. However, these are minor blemishes, considering the wealth of matter the book contains. Notes appear at the ends of chapters. There is an extensive bibliography.

Barbara Gibbs Golffing

The Diaries of George Price Boyce, edited by Virginia Surtees. Norwich: Real World Publications, 1980. ix, 127 pp. and 9 plates. £7.80.

The Diary of Charles Compton (1828-1884), edited by Eunice H. Taylor. With a Preface by Keith Robinson. Ilfracombe: Arthur Stockwell, 1980. 132 pp. and 8 plates. £5.25.

Sometimes it seems that everyone peripherally associated with the Pre-Raphaelites kept a diary. Besides toiling at their regular work -- be it painting, literature, or the civil service -- the minor figures often had time for another occupation, filling notebook after notebook with the details of their daily activities. By far the longest and most compulsively written is William Rossetti's diary, which runs to several million words. On a smaller scale,