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the insane, but the major impact was to set the pattern for mental care in the United States for the next one hundred years. In relating insanity to social conditions, Jarvis showed a close correlation between poverty and mental illness. He accepted the prevailing beliefs that poverty was largely the result of a lack of moral fiber and that the insane poor were less subject to treatment. Prior to this time state hospitals had attracted patients from diverse economic backgrounds, but by the mid-century they were drawing increasingly from the poorer classes. The well-to-do were already turning to private insane hospitals and the publication of the Commission's report accentuated the trend. The unfortunate consequence was to turn state asylums into custodial institutions for the insane poor rather than to preserve them as hospitals providing medical care for the mentally ill.

Obviously Jarvis and his colleagues cannot be blamed for the transition, for social changes were already moving in this direction. What the Commission's *Report* did was to crystallize thinking and provide a large measure of intellectual justification for what was happening. In terms of his own day, Jarvis performed a remarkable and creditable piece of work. He sought to place the problem in its social perspective, and if he failed to solve it, the present generation has done little better. The *Report of the Commission on Lunacy* saw insanity in terms of mid-nineteenth-century society, and in so doing reminds us that we, too, conceive of aberrant behavior in the light of our own attitudes. The *Report* also reminds us that whether we call poverty a state of mind or a moral weakness, we have made little progress in dealing with it during the past one hundred years. The reissuance of this study is timely and worthwhile, and Dr. Grob's excellent introduction places the work in its proper perspective.

JOHN DUFFY.

*Thoreau Abroad. Twelve Bibliographical Essays.* Edited with an Introduction by Eugene F. Timpe. Foreword by Walter Harding. (Hamden, Connecticut: The Shoe String Press, Inc. 1971. Pp. 203. \$9.50.)

This book will not dispel all of the myths of Thoreau's worldwide popularity and influence held by Thoreau cultists in this

country—for one reason, few of those who have been simplifying their wants will have the \$9.50 price—but it will dampen the uncritical assumptions of those who can borrow a copy. For the message of the book, to this reviewer at least, is that knowledge of Thoreau outside his own country is less extensive than has generally been supposed. Even in countries where his works are known, they are known partially, and as a rule only to a few. *Walden* and “Resistance to Civil Government” have commonly been translated into the host language, and in a few cases, journal selections, and some of the polemical reform essays. Little more. The Thoreau partisan who reads the “Twelve Bibliographical Essays” that comprise Professor Timpe’s volume is less likely to ask why Thoreau has taken root abroad than why he has not. Though American literature is now seriously studied in many nations, if one can assume that the twelve foreign cultures Professor Timpe chose for inclusion in this collection were the twelve where Thoreau’s reception was most hospitable, the conclusion follows that relative to other nineteenth-century American authors Thoreau has not fared well.

Professor Timpe’s format called for influence studies of Thoreau, in most cases by native scholars, in England (William Condry), France (Maurice Gonnaud and Micheline Flak), Holland (Seymour L. Flaxman), Germany (Professor Timpe), Switzerland (Dominik Jost), Italy (Agostino Lombardo), Bohemia (Otakar Vočadlo), Russia (Jerzy R. Krzyżnowski), Israel (Sholom J. Kahn), India (Sujit Mukherjee), Japan (Katsuhiko Takeda), and Australia (Joseph Jones). With the exception of the essays by Condry, Flaxman, Timpe, and Jost, all are original essays presumably commissioned for this volume.

The essays are introduced by a foreword by Professor Walter Harding and by Professor Timpe’s “Introduction.” Professor Harding alleges a post-World War II “surge of interest in Thoreau both at home and particularly abroad,” (p. 4) basing his judgment upon impressions gained from lecturing in various countries of Asia and Europe and the volume of unsolicited inquiries he has received from abroad as secretary of The Thoreau Society. Professor Timpe’s transoceanic claims for Thoreau are more modest: after observing that Thoreau’s influence abroad is at this time difficult to assess, he turns his attention to the influence of foreign

cultures upon Thoreau—principally the literatures of Greece and Rome, of Modern Europe, and of the Orient.

The essays in the collection may be divided into two groups: those demonstrating an appreciable acceptance of Thoreau in a given country, and those alleging a minimal impact. The latter group would include the following:

Switzerland: "In the whole course of my activity as a professor at Bern University . . . [Hans Zbinden is quoted as saying] I have never come across the name of Thoreau at all." (pp. 91-92)

Italy: Though "the American literary experience" is becoming "live" and "active," "Thoreau remains nearly unknown." (p. 99)

Russia: "One can hope that the country of Chekhov and Tolstoy, whose names have been so strangely associated with the lonely inhabitant of Walden, will one day discover the real Thoreau." (p. 140)

Israel: "Thoreau's masterpiece is available then, in every sense, to the Hebrew reader; but from my limited experience [Professor Kahn writes], it has not had many takers, at least to judge from what has appeared in print." (p. 147)

Even the critics representing nations where Thoreau's reputation has made appreciable headway are guarded in attributing broad currency to his works and ideas. Though much has been made by American scholars of the influence of Thoreau on Gandhi, Mukherjee drolly refers to the "Thoreau-Gandhi entente" as "a straw for Indo-American amity for both nations to clutch at on appropriate occasions." (p. 156) Of Thoreau in France, Gonnaud and Flak write in one of the most thoroughly researched essays in the volume: "Of all the major writers of the American Renaissance, Henry David Thoreau remained until recently the least appreciated in France." (p. 33) Seymour Flaxman's study of Thoreau's reception in Holland centers upon Thoreau's influence upon Frederick van Eeden, who so misunderstood Thoreau that he gave the name "Walden" to a Fourieristic Pantisocracy of the sort Thoreau consistently deprecated. Though Thoreau's reception in Germany has been "substantial" according to Professor Timpe, (p. 75) "between the two wars Thoreau was almost completely neglected" (p. 76) and only a half-dozen articles on him have been printed during the post-World War II period. (p. 81) In Japan, according

to Professor Takeda, where "much has been done on Thoreau since the second World War," (p. 180) "the study of Thoreau has been far behind that of Emerson or Whitman." (p. 181) Only in Czechoslovakia does Thoreau's influence seem to have been pervasive: "We may safely say that his deep influence, both direct and indirect, is beyond dispute." (p. 130)

This book is a corrective to the adulation that often obscures Thoreau. With no axes to grind, the foreign contributors to this volume take Thoreau's measure in their cultures. Neither the tendency to charity in a few cases nor the few errors of fact (e.g., Thoreau did not recount in *Walden* the story of his night in jail [p. 28]) detracts from this contribution.

This reviewer finds it curious that neither South America nor Scandinavia is represented. A selection from Thoreau's essays and journals appeared in Spanish in Buenos Aires in 1937 and Spanish editions of *Walden* followed in 1945 and 1949. "Resistance to Civil Government" was published in Spanish in Santiago in 1949. *Walden* appeared in Portuguese in Rio de Janeiro in 1953. In 1947, *Walden* was translated into Swedish, and in 1949 a Danish edition was exhausted in a few weeks. Some attention to these areas might have made the picture of "Thoreau Abroad" more complete.

WENDELL GLICK.