

Recent Publications

Laurels and Rosemary: the life of William and Mary Howitt. By Amice Lee. Oxford University Press, 1955. pp. (xii), 350; 9 plates. 30s.

This book by Mrs. R. W. Lee, great-niece of the Howitts, is based on surviving letters from Mary Howitt to Anne (Botham) Harrison, 1797-1882, and other autobiographical material still in the family. Brought up as Quakers in the Midlands, the Howitts married in 1821. William had a druggist's shop in Nottingham from 1822 to 1836, in which year the family moved nearer London to support themselves solely by their pens, in which they succeeded, without achieving lasting fame.

The Howitts left the Society of Friends in 1847 (although this does not appear in the book), took to spiritualism, and after William's death in Rome Mary became a Roman Catholic. The interest for Friends lies in the early period of the writers' lives to about 1840 and their expressed dissatisfaction with the Quakerism of the time. The index and proof-reading is erratic and one could dispense with half the plates to knock something off the price.

The Bulletin of Friends Historical Association, vol. 44, no. 1, spring number, 1955, opens with Geoffrey F. Nuttall's article on "Early Quakerism in the Netherlands," summarizing information contained in C. B. Hylkema's *Reformateurs* (2 vols. 1900-02). Helen Pennock South, Assistant Professor of English at New York University, contributes a discussion on "Dr. Johnson and the Quakers," giving parallel versions of the discussion between Johnson and Mrs. Mary Knowles on Quakerism.

The autumn number, 1955, opens with an illustrated article on "The Centre Square Meetinghouse and the other meetinghouses of early Philadelphia." (Edwin B. Bronner). It includes also a useful outline account of English Friends' activities and the abolition of the Slave Trade (Alan M. Rees); "Hannah Kilham, Friend of the Free" (Elwood Cronk); "Cultural resources of Quaker pioneers in Ohio" (Opal Thornburg); and the usual features.