

repräsentieren), so ist klar, daß Geyers scharfsinnige Überlegungen und Deutungen nicht in allen Fällen gleichermaßen allgemeine Gültigkeit beanspruchen wollen und können. Diese Problematik offenbart sich z. B. in der Frage des Einflusses der russischen Presse und öffentlichen Meinung auf Entscheidungen der Regierung, wie er beispielhaft im Verlauf der Orientkrise der 1870er Jahre wirksam wurde. Die bisherige Forschung (in dieser speziellen Frage z. B. David MacKenzie, *The Serbs and Russian Panslavism 1875—1878*, Ithaca, New York 1967, auf den sich Geyer stützt) hat noch nicht hinreichend die politische Wirksamkeit und den Stellenwert der Presse im innenpolitischen Kräftespiel klären können. Trotz der Skepsis Geyers, daß hier entscheidende Fortschritte zu erzielen seien (S. 50), erscheinen dem Rezensenten Versuche zur Klärung dieses Problems sinnvoll. Volker Mettig

H. J. Dyos/Michael Wolff (eds.), *The Victorian City. Images and Realities*, Vol. I: Past and Present/Numbers of people, Voll. II: Ideas in the Air/A Body of Troubles/A New Earth/Epilogue, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London/Henley/Boston, Vol. I: 1977, pp. XVI, 224, XIV, Vol. II: 1973, pp. XII, 429—957.

The first volume of »The Victorian City« — appropriately dedicated to H. L. Beales — was originally published in 1973 and has now appeared as a paperback. The editors have assembled a team of economic and social historians, statisticians, and sociologists to examine various aspects of life in the Victorian city. Apart from *E. E. Lampard's* detailed statistical study of »The Urbanised World«, the essays deal with the English city in the Victorian age.

Some of the essays are pieces of original research, while others survey the present state of knowledge concerning problems that have long been discussed by historians. It may be doubted whether *Paul Thompson's* account of childhood in the 1890s, based upon the recollections of elderly people, differs very much from earlier descriptions of urban family life with which historians have long been familiar.

On the other hand *Raphael Samuel* breaks new ground when he describes the life style of the English migrant workers in the nineteenth century who »have left remarkably few traces of their existence«. It is not always appreciated that, side by side with miners, factory operatives, shopkeepers, and many other workers who stayed in one place for all or most of their lives there was also a mobile labour force which moved about the country at different times of the year. This labour force comprised many different types of migrants. At one end of the scale were the tramps, pickpockets, hucksters, and strolling players, while at the other end were respectable workers who had a fixed abode in a town in the winter but migrated to the countryside in the summer. Some workers — such as bargees, navvies, and gypsies — were bound to be continually on the move by the very nature of their occupations. Others were migrants because of the seasonal character of certain types of work. For example since gasworks were busy in the winter and slack in the summer it is not surprising that stokers should seek employment on the land in the summer. For town workers, with a taste for country life, there were ample opportunities for work on the land. In June gangs of mowers and haymakers moved from one farm to another. Next came the corn harvest, followed by fruit picking and hop picking. The lifting of the potato crop completed the cycle of harvests. Samuel explains that migrants often followed the same routes year after year. The entertainers, strolling players, and pedlars travelled from one fair and race meeting to another while those who moved from the city to the countryside were regularly engaged in the same harvests. It is clear that the migrant workers played a significant part in the Victorian economy. Without them many farmers would have been in difficulties at harvest time.

Without them the completion of the railways and other great public works would probably have been long delayed.

Other essays examine three aspects of the leisure activities of the English urban workers in the Victorian era — public houses, theatres, and broadsheet ballads. *Brian Harrison* discusses the public house (particularly those in London) as transport centres in the days of the stage coaches, as centres of recreation, and as places at which public meetings were held. In his description of the London stage *M. R. Booth* draws attention to numerous plays in which a contrast was drawn between the sufferings of the poor in the metropolis and the happy life that they had left behind in the countryside. Playwrights were reviving an old legend — which goes back at least as far as Peter Gaskell's book on »The Manufacturing Population of England« (1833) — which had depicted the life of the villager before the industrial revolution as an ideal state of existence. *V. E. Neuburg* covers familiar ground when he discusses the broadsheet ballads of the nineteenth century. When dealing with ballads on the royal family he states that they »often exhibited an adulatory, unsophisticated attitude to royalty which remains a characteristic of much journalism today«. But some ballads were highly critical of the Prince Consort. The song »Lovely Albert« depicted him as a poverty stricken German fortune hunter who had married Victoria for her money and had then turned traitor during the Crimean War. (»It is rumoured over Britain's Isle, That Albert's in the Tower«).

Historians have cause to be grateful to the editors of this exceptionally well illustrated collection of essays which brings together the results of the researches of various experts in the field of urban social history.

The second volume, like the first, includes some pieces of original research, while other essays are discussions based upon the researches of other scholars. Some of the chapters have been written by historians while others are from the pens of urban specialists, sociologists, or literary critics. The most useful contributions are those which attempt to give a reasonably comprehensive survey of some aspect of English urban life in the nineteenth century. *Rosen*, for example, has written an admirable account of the diseases and epidemics which flourished in Queen Victoria's reign while *Himmelfarb's* chapter includes a valuable criticism of *Mayhew's* »London Labour and the London Poor« and *Pierson's* contribution deals with some of the planned »new towns« of the nineteenth century (Saltaire, Akroydon, Crossley, Bournville, Port Sunlight). On the other hand the chapters on some of the great cities — London, Manchester, Leeds, Belfast, Birmingham — are somewhat disappointing since they deal only with particular aspects of their development. And, on the whole, the sociological chapters are equally thin. It is, for example, a little difficult to take very seriously the »hypothesis about the sanitary movement« in chapter 28 which appears to attempt to draw an analogy between the potty training of infants and the sanitary improvements in Victorian cities.

W. O. Henderson

Gwyn Harries-Jenkins, *The Army in Victorian Society* (= *Studies in Social History*), Routledge & Kegan Paul, London/University of Toronto Press, Toronto/Buffalo 1977, pp. XII, 320, clothbound, £ 5.50.

Recruiting advertisements in England today invite young men to »join the professionals«. A hundred years ago a more appropriate slogan would have been »join the amateurs«. As the author of this interesting survey observes, one of the most striking characteristics of the British army in Victorian times was its amateurism. Only in the artillery and the engineers