

new problems such as big industry, and veering between conservatism (sometimes reasoned, sometimes crass) and innovation (sometimes intelligent, sometimes feckless). Like all first-rate scholars, Keller convinces and illuminates. His interpretation of 19th-century America will be plundered by other writers for a long time to come.

—*Marcus Cunliffe*

**THE ULTIMATE
EXPERIMENT: Man-Made
Evolution**

by Nicholas Wade
Walker, 1977
162 pp. \$8.95
L of C 76-52575
ISBN 0-8027-0572-3

Fairly strict regulations and planned back-up legislation have reassured scientists and laymen about the danger of epidemics caused by new microbes escaping from laboratories in the course of recombinant DNA experiments. But worry about the long-run ecological and evolutionary impact of "gene-splicing" continues unabated. Nicholas Wade, senior writer for *Science*, briskly demonstrates that molecular biologists have reason to be proud of their initiative in working out self-restraining rules to guard against epidemics. His neat little essay on the sociology of science also makes it clear, however, that most members of the scientific community have shown the gambler's unconcern for the future and the cabalist's hostility toward the general public. Could a repressed bad conscience be at work here? One thinks of all the times when scientists have claimed credit for the practical benefits of their discoveries while disclaiming responsibility for the harmful side effects.

—*David Joravsky*

**WILLIAM MORRIS:
Romantic to Revolutionary**

by E. P. Thompson
Pantheon reissue, 1977
829 pp. \$17.95
L of C 76-62712
ISBN 0-394-41136-6

William Morris (1834–96) worked with revolutionary zeal to overthrow banal mid-19th-century taste in interior design and architecture. He was also a romantic poet in the tradition of Tennyson, a translator of Icelandic sagas, the author of a utopian novel (*News from Nowhere*, 1890), and organizer of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings. Not last, but least remembered, he became a serious political activist, who served as secretary of the Socialist League and editor of *Commonweal*. Nikolaus Pevsner's *Pioneers of Modern Design from William Morris to Wal-*

ter Gropius (1949) ignored Morris's political life. E. P. Thompson's book (first published in 1955) restores a necessary balance. Morris the printer, fabric-dyer, tapestry weaver, and stained-glass artisan acquired his sense of the joyful possibilities of life as a creative workingman through being one. The effects of the Industrial Revolution on workers horrified him. His socialism was both a by-product and the culmination of his career.

—Kermit Parsons ('77)

THE PUBLIC MAN: An Interpretation of Latin American and Other Catholic Countries

by Glen Caudill Dealy
Univ. of Mass., 1977
134 pp. \$10
L of C 77-1423
ISBN 0-87023-239-8

Trying to explain Latin America's failure to forge "modern" political systems has been the bane of many a social scientist and historian. Dealy here advances a cultural explanation that derives from the differing moral behavior of Catholic man in public and private spheres. Finding the origins for Catholic man's duality in St. Augustine's doctrine of the Two Cities, he contrasts him to Protestant man, who extended morality from the private sphere to the entire realm of human activity (and thus could be saved only in the City of God here on earth). Dealy's contribution to the study of political behavior in "traditional" societies is intelligent, but he passes too lightly over the economic and social structures that sustain and mesh with the ethos of Latin *cuadillaje* (political bossism).

—Sara Castro-Klarén

THE SOVIET UNION AND INTERNATIONAL OIL POLITICS

by Arthur Jay Klinghoffer
Columbia, 1977
389 pp. \$16.50
L of C 76-52411
ISBN 0-231-04104-7

Written prior to the 1977 CIA report predicting a likely Soviet need to import oil in the 1980s, this remarkable study of the role of oil in Soviet domestic and foreign policy provides an overview of conflicting trends during recent decades. Klinghoffer contrasts Moscow's blustering demands for concessions from Iran in the late Stalin years with the businesslike relations with Russia's southern neighbors that evolved later. But he also notes that the U.S.S.R. pays less for the natural gas it imports from Afghanistan and Iran than it charges for its own gas exports to Europe, even while touting its economic aid to the Third World.

—Walter C. Clemens, Jr. ('77)