THE CRITICS DEBATE

General Editor Michael Scott

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GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Brian Tippet

M
MACMILLAN

For Glenys, Mark, Clare and Paul

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1989

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General Editor's Preface

OVER THE last few years the practice of literary criticism has become hotly debated. Methods developed earlier in the century and before have been attacked and the word 'crisis' has been drawn upon to describe the present condition of English Studies. That such a debate is taking place is a sign of the subject discipline's health. Some would hold that the situation necessitates a radical alternative approach which naturally implies a 'crisis situation'. Others would respond that to employ such terms is to precipitate or construct a false position. The debate continues but it is not the first. 'New Criticism' acquired its title because it attempted something fresh calling into question certain practices of the past. Yet the practices it attacked were not entirely lost or negated by the new critics. One factor becomes clear: English Studies is a pluralistic discipline.

What are students coming to advanced work in English for the first time to make of all this debate and controversy? They are in danger of being overwhelmed by the cross-currents of critical approaches as they take up their study of literature. The purpose of this series is to help delineate various critical approaches to specific literary texts. Its authors are from a variety of critical schools and have approached their task in a flexible manner. Their aim is to help the reader come to terms with the variety of criticism and to introduce him or her to further reading on the subject and to a fuller evaluation of a particular text by illustrating the way it has been approached in a number of contexts. In the first part of the book a critical survey is given of some of the major ways the text has been appraised. This is done sometimes in a thematic manner, sometimes according to various 'schools' or 'approaches'. In the second part the authors provide their own appraisals of the text from their stated critical standpoint, allowing the reader the knowledge of their own particular approaches from which

their views may in turn be evaluated. The series therein hopes to introduce and to elucidate criticism of authors and texts being studied and to encourage participation as the critics debate.

Michael Scott

A Note on Text and References

IT IS WORTH recalling that what is now universally known as *Gulliver's Travels* was originally published in 1726 as *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World* by Lemuel Gulliver, without acknowledgement of Swift's authorship. The text used here is that of the Penguin edition by Peter Dixon and John Chalker with an Introduction by Michael Foot (Harmondsworth, 1967). For the convenience of readers using other editions, I have in some cases given references to voyage and chapter number as well as to the page number of the Penguin edition, thus: II.iv.159 or *GT* II.iv.159. In the final section of the Appraisal quotations are from the text given in volume XI of the standard edition of the *Prose Writings of Jonathan Swift* edited by Herbert Davis (14 volumes, Oxford, 1939–68), which preserves typographic features (e.g. initial capital letters for nouns and italics for names) of an eighteenth-century edition.

Works of criticism and other secondary sources are referred to in abbreviated style by author's surname and date of publication. This enables reference to be made to the bibliography at the end of the book. Where titles are referred to in more than one section, details are given in one place only in the bibliography.