

LECTURES ON SHELLEY

Noted Critic, Dean of Birmingham U. Faculty, Gives Talk on English Poet at Northwestern

Whatever one may think of the history of Shelley, it is remarkable to note that progress since his day has been along lines he suggested.

This Ernest de Selincourt, M. A., D. Litt, eminent authority on English literature of the romantic period, told an audience Thursday evening at Harris hall, Northwestern university.

Prof. de Selincourt since 1909 has

been in the department of English language and literature at the University of Birmingham and dean of the faculty since 1919. He has been actively connected with the universities of Wales, London, Durham, Edinburgh and Bristol, the Dulwich college and the University College, Oxford. He is in America giving a series of discourses at the University of Michigan. He has recently published a facsimile of Keats' "Hyperion" autograph manuscript with introduction and textual notes, and Wordsworth's prelude, edited from original manuscripts. He has contributed many criticisms on romantic period literature which have

been hailed as valuable lights on the period.

Shelley, Prof. Selincourt places in the same position as a writer of poetry as Shakespeare is placed as a writer of dramatic verse. Of Shelley he said:

"In a perfect state of felicity there can be no art. Sorrow, pain and despair as experienced by him are what help make his poems divine. He was a true artist and genuine in his career as poet. His work expresses the ecstasy of intense passion of the heroic couplet which he has strikingly mastered. The easy flow of words in the most natural prose order any artist has ever written is Shelley's achievement. Others may

parody his thoughts and ideals, but no one has or possibly ever will be able to parody his style.

"With all his thought expressed as naturally, originally and normally as he would write them in prose, he is a complete master of poetry in the style which he used. Rarely will one find a word in his poetry that he would not use in prose. Always eloquent, he was, in his expression, and an easy master of any style of poetry which he chose to write."

The speaker appeared here through arrangements made by the English department of the university. He talked to a crowded hall.



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