

combined with the filtered conceptive product of the political heat of the past present and future, combine to raise the level of Burke's politics above the level of ordinary politicians."

E. M. W.

NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

De Quincey—A Sister's Death.

The sight of his sister's corpse fills De Quincey with a deep mysterious sense of awe. This sense of awe in the presence of one of nature's deep mysteries, spreads a solemnising influence through the world around him, and he seems to hear in the sound of the summer-wind an awful voice speaking in sad and hollow tones of death and mortality at work through centuries of human life. So overpoweringly solemn is this sound, so awful the contrast it suggests between the glory of life on earth or in heaven and the petrific power of death, that it throws him into a trance in which his spirit endeavours to pierce the mystery of life and death by reaching the throne of God from whence all mysteries will lie clear to view. He seems to see the Heaven opened and a shaft ascending through its heights; a path from perplexity to happy certitude seems to open before him. His spirit rises through the shaft and endeavours to reach the throne of God which however continually recedes before his pursuit. The source of all mystery evades all attempts to reach it: ultimate truth defies the grasp of the human mind: the one spot in the universe whence a clear insight into all mysteries can be attained cannot be reached by the human spirit however persistent its efforts. The hand of death seems to thrust back the spirit from reaching the source of light and life. And the spirit realises that there is a dreadful antagonism between God and death which leads death to repel the soul that flies to God. But with the realisation of this antagonism there comes also a dim sense