

## Editorial

HELLO WEST COUNTRY.

Much of this issue is devoted to the sights and sounds of field and sand and estuary, some in Henry's words, some recalled in a return by Guy Priest, some described in sensitive and personal terms by Peter Rothwell. He and I tramped the Burrows last November, and they are indeed magical; and though I cannot express my recollection of that magic, surrounded as I am by sheets of paper and typewriting accessories and whatnot, I instinctively feel it - know it to exist, at least. (It is a mark of the great writer to be able to ignore the rubbish of everyday life surrounding him as he works.) I shall tramp the sands again: it is good to know they are there.

And if in the West Country, where better to begin than in the Writing Hut? The first item is a piece Henry wrote in his capacity of editor of *The Adelphi*. It was the first item in that particular edition of the magazine and so I suppose was an Editorial - but a pretty long one. Its various sections reflect the different facets of the man. The nature writer is there, of course, and the visionary; the joker is there (Henry swiped my pudding once) and the lover of books. And through it all, there is the writer. We have another piece by Henry in this issue, not published since its first appearance. We look forward to publishing more.

South London is a fair distance from Georgeham and has changed a great deal more since Henry lived there as a boy. Henry's childhood is explored in this issue. Fred Shepherd points out the associations with Colfe's School, and Tom and Joan Skipper tell us about the Bedfordshire connection. We have been done a great service by this painstaking couple, and their researches must be central to this issue. Devon, Norfolk, Lewisham...Bedfordshire. It is good to know the familiar places are there, exciting to consider the less familiar.

From the Society's *Book of Clippings* we shall be printing a variety of small but interesting items. The following seems as good a way of getting the ball rolling as any:

NO GRASSHOPPERS From Mr. Henry Williamson

Sir, - Where have all the grasshoppers gone?

Yours etc., Henry Williamson, Ox's Cross,  
North Devon.

*The Times* 18 July 1967

The Society's thanks are due to Malcolm Cade for his work on the Editorial Committee. Malcolm, a founder-member of the Society, decided in the summer to give up his editorial work. We welcome Ronald Walker as our new Editorial Committee member.

W.H.