high and low, the lecture platform, popular arts—dictate to some extent the scope and structure of this remarkable book; but the larger part of the study is devoted to intensive contextual analysis of individual novels, taken up chronologically within related groups according to their origins and to stages in Thackeray's development. The whole conveys in all of its dimensions the rich, accretive imagination that Thackeray brought to his multiple career: the "natural perversity of vision" that enabled him to move so nimbly from waggery to wisdom, and to view life as through a kaleidoscope; the childlike fondness for fantasy and grotesquerie, combined with sophistication and urbanity; the "strange and rare mixture of relish," in George Saintsbury's words, "for things of the street and things of the study" that made him a highbrow of lowbrow sympathies; the cosmopolitan sensibility fed by the triple streams of Great Britain, the Continent, and America; and, above all, the sense of humility and mortal fallibility that impelled him, with all his genius, to speak to his audiences "as a man and a brother."

Robert A. Colby is professor of library science at Queens College of the City University of New York.
Other titles of interest . . .

FROUDE'S LIFE OF CARLYLE, by James Anthony Froude, abridged and edited by John Clubbe
$30.00

THE MARK AND THE KNOWLEDGE: SOCIAL STIGMA IN CLASSICAL AMERICAN FICTION
by Marjorie Pryse
$15.00

At your bookseller's, or write . . .

Ohio State University Press
2070 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210