candour of these admissions. But one must also regret that the author did not act upon them before sending his book to press.

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

H. B. NISBET


This is the nearest thing to a complete edition of the works of Lenz that we possess and will prove of great benefit to the study of Lenz’s work, a study that has been held back by the absence of a full and reliable version of the source material. Up to now we have had to rely primarily on two editions, the two-volume Werke und Schriften edited by Britta Tietel and Hellmut Haug (Stuttgart, 1966–67) and the five-volume Gesammelte Schriften of Franz Blei (Munich and Leipzig, 1909–13). The former is more accurate and includes notes, but the selection of texts is severely limited. The present edition contains several important texts not included in the Werke und Schriften, and even some not included in either edition, such as Über die Soldatensehen; it also includes letters to and from Lenz, a few more from Lenz than in the edition by Karl Freye and Wolfgang Stammer, 2 vols (Leipzig, 1918), and a rather smaller selection of the letters to Lenz. This is, however, a ‘Leseausgabe’ and makes no claim to be a complete critical edition. There are a small number of texts which are unfortunately not included: above all, prose works from the later period of Lenz’s life, such as Urganda, Über Delikatessen der Empfindung, and Empfindsamster aller Romane. And where different or draft versions exist, the reader is, as in the Werke und Schriften, usually offered only samples of the alternative versions. Thus the student of Der Hofmeister must turn to the parallel-text edition by Michael Kohlenbach (Basel, 1986), and we can only deduce from the notes to Die Soldaten that the Mariane of the text (manuscript version) is the character more widely known as Marie (from the first printed edition). In all texts the orthography is modernized, although the editor has consulted the original manuscript where possible.

Although the scholar awaiting a historical critical edition will still feel that not all his needs have been met, such editorial decisions can no doubt be justified in terms of a good usable edition at a good price which can only help to make Lenz more widely accessible. All texts are provided with notes, and these are generally more helpful than those of the Werke und Schriften. The edition is completed by a biographical essay by Sigrid Damm in which she attempts to reconstruct the inner logic of Lenz’s career as the semi-conscious assertion of values contrary to those of the dominant tradition represented by Goethe, rather as she did in her Vögel, die verkommen Land (Berlin, 1985).

In general, the production of these volumes is of a high standard, and one is grateful that physically they will be able to survive the regular use which they deserve; the number of printing errors appears to be small. This edition is likely to be the standard edition of Lenz’s works and letters for some time to come. (A ‘Lizenzausgabe’ is published by the Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich, at DM 158.)

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

DAVID HILL


In this absorbing, closely-written book we encounter several of the dominant tensions of eighteenth-century intellectual and social life: between ancient views of cosmic harmony that argued for a parallelism between macrocosm and microcosm,