

errors. Mr Stone repeats the common assumption that no-one in England took the novel seriously as an art form before Henry James, although there is a great deal of evidence to the contrary in Richard Stang's *The Theory of the*

Novel in England 1850-1870. Mr Stone is certainly mistaken when, on p. 152, he implies that Well's *The Time Machine* is a Utopia, and on p. 112 he says *Persuasion* when he means *Mansfield Park*.
BERNARD BERGONZI

GOD AND GOLEM INC. by Norbert Wiener. A comment on certain points where Cybernetics impinges on Religion: *Chapman & Hall*, 1965. 18s.

Wiener was probably one of the most brilliant intellects of the century. To review a book by one who took his B.A. in mathematics at the age of 14 would be enough to daunt any reviewer, were it not for the fact that Wiener was always possessed of a great humanism, and this small book is fittingly his last will and testament, for in it he returns from his mathematical treatises to deal once more with the subject matter of his earlier 'The Human Use of Human Beings' – the impact of cybernetics on the world of ideas and on society.

Many readers will find his discussion of the relation of religion to cybernetics misplaced, in the sense that the God of which he speaks seems somewhat distantly connected with the God of the Christian theologians. But to a great extent we should recognise that this is the fault of the theologians for failing to talk in a language which allows members of any other discipline to understand the content of theology. As Wiener

says, 'If we are to treat knowledge only in terms of Omniscience, power only in terms of Omnipotence, worship only in terms of the One Godhead, we shall find ourselves entangled in metaphysical subtleties before we shall have really embarked upon the study of the relations between religion and science.'

Wiener cares passionately about the use and misuse of cybernetics, the abrogation of responsibility to the machine by man, and the implications of his brainchild for society. And the man who will probably be seen to have been responsible for the greatest revolution of the century, the development of artificial intelligence, is of a sufficient stature to leave us his own epitaph, 'Render unto man the things that are man's and to the computer the things that are computer's.'

Highly recommended, even at the page/price ratio of 95 pp. to 18 shillings.

NEVILLE MORAY